

Gephardt announces candidacy

ST. LOUIS (R) — Congressman Richard Gephardt today became the first opposition Democrat to formally enter the 1988 presidential race, promising to end what he called an era of disrespect for the law from the White House on down. "From the White House to Wall Street, we must get rid of the dangerous idea that the proper standard of conduct is whatever someone can get away with," the 46-year old St. Louis native said, announcing his candidacy. In a reference to the diversion of funds from the Iran arms sales to U.S.-backed contra rebels in Nicaragua, Mr. Gephardt accused President Reagan's administration of ignoring a congressional ban on aid to the guerrillas. "If Congress nullifies military aid to the contras, the duty of the executive branch is to carry out the law, not to figure out how to bend and break it covertly. Let us insist that the government which makes laws has no right to break laws... our government has failed the people," Mr. Gephardt also accused the White House of failing to enforce civil rights laws.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan News Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة يوسيف للنشر والصحافة الأردنية

Volume 12 Number 3408

AMMAN, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1987, JUMADI AL THANI 25, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Israel jails Arab for 14 years

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli military court on Monday sentenced a Lebanese to 14 years in prison after convicting him of leading a group on an intelligence operation on South Lebanon in July, 1986, the local Itim news agency reported Monday. Ibrahim Sami Shabbi, 25, of Beirut, pleaded guilty to charges of providing services to a "terrorist" organization, carrying arms and taking part in a firefight, Itim reported. Two commandos and one Israeli soldier were killed in the clash. According to the charge sheet, the band belonged to the Shi'ite Hizbollah (Party of God) movement.

Soviet-Pak talks begin in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on Monday held his second talks in a month with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze amid signs of progress towards a settlement of the Afghanistan conflict. Diplomatic sources said the two ministers had a long session Monday morning and were to resume talks before dinner, concentrating on four aspects of the seven-year-old Afghan war. These were a timetable for a withdrawal of more than 100,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the process of "national reconciliation" launched by the Afghan government with Kremlin backing, the question of a ceasefire and the political status of the country after a settlement.

Bonn sends middleman to Beirut

BONN (AP) — The federal government sent a special envoy to Lebanon over the weekend to resume contacts with the kidnappers, government officials said Monday. It was the third time the so-called "middleman" has flown to Beirut to talk to the kidnappers since the two West German businessmen, Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, were taken hostage last month, one well-informed official said. The official refused to say whether the representative had actually met with the kidnappers over the weekend, or to give other details of the mission.

Mitterrand to visit Rome

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand will fly to Rome on Wednesday for talks with Italian President Francesco Cossiga and Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, the Elysee Palace announced Monday. The announcement of the unscheduled trip came after Italy pulled out of Sunday's Paris meeting of the group of seven major industrialized countries (G-7) and warned that the group's Venice summit next June might be in jeopardy.

INSIDE

- Sudanese army reports attack on rebels, page 2
- Prime minister meets Canadian delegation, page 3
- Gates seems set to become next CIA chief, page 4
- Was Christ born in Bethlehem on Dec. 25? page 5
- Honeyghan retains title, page 6
- Dubai cuts oil output, page 7
- Eight bombs explode in Lima, page 8

EC endorses call for int'l conference on Mideast

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The 12-nation European Community (EC) gave key support on Monday for an international conference under United Nations auspices to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A statement issued by EC foreign ministers meeting here said the community favoured a conference on all interested parties, as well as nations that could contribute to establishing peace and security in the Middle East and enhance its economic and social development.

The statement implicitly supported a call, first made by Jordan, for an international conference to bring together Arabs and Israelis and all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, including the Soviet Union. After a one-day meeting, the EC foreign ministers said in a statement such a conference "should provide a suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned."

The statement marked the first time the EC formally backed the proposal for a U.N. Mideast peace conference that would give Moscow a role in any peace process.

The ministers said the EC

"cannot adopt a passive attitude towards a region which is so close (to the EC) nor remain indifferent to the grave problems besetting it."

Referring to failed peace initiatives in recent years, the ministers said they were "profoundly concerned at the absence of progress in finding a solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict."

They reiterated the 1980 Venice Declaration by EC government leaders that said the Palestinians must be associated in any peace talks. They also pledged to help reconcile the differing viewpoints of the parties that would participate in any U.N. peace conference.

These would include, in addition to Israel and the Arabs, the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (the United States, China, the Soviet Union, France and Britain) and representatives of the Palestinian people.

The community's message followed reported divisions within

the Israeli government between supporters and opponents of such a conference and indications that Washington was moving towards accepting the idea.

"The 12 believe that this conference can provide the appropriate framework for negotiations necessary between the parties directly concerned, as well as a forum for questions of regional interest," Monday's statement said.

There was no specific mention of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or any other possible participant, but the statement said the principles included in the Venice Declaration remained the basis for a Middle East peace.

Delegation spokesmen said the EC remained completely attached to the Venice Declaration, which recognised the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians.

The Venice Declaration called for mutual recognition of all parties in all states in the area. Israel, however, has rejected the declaration for what it sees as backing for the PLO.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Massi on Monday met with foreign ministers of Holland and Luxembourg and discussed with them the latest developments in

the Middle East region and the Iran-Iraq war. Their talks also centred on reviving the European role in the region and on holding the proposed international conference, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Mr. Massi arrived here Thursday. He met with Leo Tindemans, the Belgian foreign minister, on Friday.

"We agreed in principle on the need for such a conference," Mr. Tindemans, the meeting's chairman, said after the meeting. "We must see first if there is a chance of holding that conference." He said the European ministers did not discuss in detail the conditions to make a U.N. Mideast peace conference possible. But he added, "we will do what we can to prepare the conference."

Mr. Tindemans said Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev sent the EC a letter last week "in which he developed Soviet ideas" on how to stage a Mideast peace conference under U.N. auspices.

"We see in that message a move which can contribute to a solution" of the conflict in the Middle East, Mr. Tindemans said. He was to meet with the Soviet ambassador to Belgium later Monday to inform the envoy of the EC's backing for a U.N. peace conference.

Peres to visit Cairo tomorrow

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will visit Cairo this week for talks with Egyptian leaders on a peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said Monday.

It said Mr. Peres was due on Wednesday for talks with Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid. He was also expected to be received by President Hosni Mubarak during his two-day visit. Egypt, Jordan and most Arab states favour convening an international Middle East peace conference, but Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has called instead for direct talks between Israel and the Arabs.

In Brussels, foreign ministers of the European Community issued a statement backing efforts to organise a conference under United Nations auspices.

Mr. Peres, then prime minister, held talks with Mr. Mubarak in Alexandria in September last year and declared 1987 "a year of negotiations for peace," in the Middle East.

The Israeli foreign ministry also confirmed Mr. Peres would make a 48-hour working visit to Egypt.

The announcement came amid widening differences in the Israeli government over proposals for an international peace conference.

Mr. Peres' Labour party, with the apparent backing of the United States and the European Community, favours an international forum as a prelude to direct negotiations.

Mr. Shamir has rejected the idea, saying it would be "madness" for Israel to attend a gathering which he believes would be dominated by "radical Arab states" supported by the Soviet Union and China.

The differences between the leaders of Israel's two major political blocs over the issue could force new elections. In remarks aired on Israel Radio on Monday, Mr. Peres said, "I view the disagreement (with Shamir) as serious."

"If, in order to bring about direct negotiations we have to begin with an international conference, I think it is wise to do so," Mr. Peres said. "Otherwise nothing will begin."

Both Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres have said they would object to any country having a role in Middle East peace talks that does not have diplomatic ties with the Jewish state.

Syrians battle gunmen in first clash after entering W. Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian troops shot it out with unidentified gunmen in west Beirut Monday in the Syrian's first clash since they moved in at the weekend to quell factional bloodletting in the capital's western sector.

Police and Syrian communists said the gunbattle broke out at mid-afternoon near the Spaghettaria Italian restaurant in the Druze-controlled Ain Mreish district on west Beirut's seaf-

ront. "Syrian deterrent forces dispatched reinforcements to the area to put down the defiance," a police communique said.

It did not elaborate and there was no immediate word on what triggered the shootout. Sources quoted by Reuters said four civilians were killed in the shootout. Police said the Syrians raided

apartment buildings in west Beirut looking for gunmen and arrested several Druze and Shi'ite Muslim irregulars. Both factions are backed by Syria.

It was the first incident involving Syrian soldiers since Damascus sent 7,000 troops into west Beirut to quell six days of clashes between the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia and leftists.

Residents rushed home as the sound of exploding grenades and bursts of automatic fire rang out across the western sector, which had been relatively calm since Damascus sent in reinforcements to restore order.

Syrian commanders have warned all gunmen they will be shot unless they lay down their arms and withdraw.

The Ain Mreish area is traditionally controlled by fighters of

the Druze-led Progressive Social Party (PSP), while the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) has held positions on the district's northern edge.

"Immediately Syrians deployed in the area went on maximum alert as many more troops rushed to the seafont... they appeared to be hunting the gunmen," one witness said. Later reports said calm returned to the area.

The civilians who died in the crossfire were strolling along the seafont esplanade, according to Reuters.

Minutes before the shooting, residents saw Syrian soldiers enter the Cavalier Hotel and detain (Continued on page 2)

Militia weapons could be used against Israel and Gemayel, Junblat says, page 2

Israeli police hunt for grenade attackers; Arabs continue protests in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police stepped up patrols in East Jerusalem on Monday, a day after a grenade attack wounded 12 paramilitary guards and five others.

Four Palestinian groups claimed responsibility for Sunday's assault. But police spokesmen said about 180 Arabs detained at the bombing site for questioning on Monday had been released, and there were no suspects in custody.

Police said dozens of officers searched homes, shops and streets in the city for clues and suspects.

Dozens of additional soldiers were called in to patrol near the site of the attack, located about 50 metres from the Damascus

Gate, one of seven entry points to the Old City.

In the West Bank on Monday, an army spokesman said Palestinian protesters fashioned roadblocks of rocks in the main streets of Ramallah and Beit Jallah which are both near Jerusalem.

The spokesman said stones were hurled at cars with Israeli licence plates and a bus window was smashed near the Jelazoun Palestinian refugee camp outside Ramallah.

A Israeli military patrol was also attacked with stones at the Askar refugee camp near Nablus, the spokesman said.

No injuries or damage was reported in the West Bank protests. Three villagers were arrested

after windows were shattered at an Israeli-owned restaurant in an East Jerusalem suburb.

Sunday's grenade attack was claimed by four Palestinian groups. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) published a communique in Tunis claiming responsibility, and Force 17, an elite unit of the Fatah movement, telephoned a French news agency in Jerusalem saying it carried out the attack.

It was also claimed by two other groups, the Syrian-backed Fatah Uprising which issued a statement in Beirut and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) which issued a communique in Damascus.

Firing stops exodus from Shatila

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinians fired bursts of machine-gun fire to stop refugees leaving Shatila camp in Beirut on Monday, after the Shi'ite Amal militia said it had lifted a three-month siege.

With Shatila's 4,500 inhabitants reported badly needing food, witnesses said fruit and vegetable vendors gathered near an entrance to the camp expecting brisk business.

But an hour after Amal's announcement lifting the siege, nobody had come out because of the firing.

A Shi'ite cleric who tried to enter the camp to persuade the refugees to come out and a Palestinian woman accompanying him both said they were forced back by sniping.

Chris Giannou, a Canadian surgeon working in the camp, told Reuters by radio on Sunday there had been relief among refugees about a big deployment of Syrian troops in west Beirut.

But Giannou said the refugees felt cautious.

Iraq says thousands of Iranians killed

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday that thousands of Iranian soldiers were killed in an overnight battle near the southern Iraqi port city of Basra and launching the overnight attack. Iran denied shelling the city.

"Iraqi armed forces are in full readiness to implement orders of the high command to retaliate for the Iranian crimes," the Baghdad spokesman said.

Baghdad spokesmen had previously said Iraq would be free to launch fresh strikes if the Iranians bombed residential areas or attacked Iraqi territory.

Iraqi warplanes flew 177 sorties Monday, destroyed three Hawk surface-to-air missile bases in the southern Iranian town of Khorramshahr and near the western Karun River, the Baghdad communique said. Helicopter gunships flew 132 combat missions.

Iran earlier reported one Iraqi aircraft shot down. The Baghdad communique said all aircraft returned safely to base.

Paris court begins Abdallah trial

PARIS (Agencies) — Lebanese guerrilla suspect Georges Ibrahim Abdallah refused to answer questions at the start of his trial on Monday on charges of political violence, telling a special court he was an "Arab fighter."

Mr. Abdallah, whose release has been demanded by a shadowy group that claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in Paris last year, is the first defendant to appear before a new court sitting without a jury.

Asked to give his name, age and other personal details at the opening of the trial in a central Paris courthouse, the 35-year-old Lebanese Christian repeatedly replied: "I am an Arab fighter."

He said the same thing last July to justify his silence before a court in Lyon that sentenced him to four years for conspiracy, arms possession and using false papers.

In a statement smuggled out of prison last week, Mr. Abdallah challenged France's right to try him, saying: "I ask you simply to please wash your hands stained with our blood and the blood of our children before claiming to judge us."

The U.S. government, which last year criticised what it saw as the light sentence handed down by the Lyon court, has joined the

Paris case as a civil party to press its demand that Mr. Abdallah stay behind bars as long as possible.

France's right-wing government has ordered exceptional security measures for the trial, placing 3,500 police on full alert in the French capital and calling for increased vigilance from the general public.

The moves follow a series of threats, several of which police say they are taking seriously, of violent attacks to coincide with the trial before a seven-member tribunal.

Mr. Abdallah was a central figure in last September's Paris bombings, in which 11 people were killed and more than 150 injured.

The committee for Solidarity with Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners, which claimed responsibility for those attacks, demanded the release of Mr. Abdallah and two additional convicted extremists.

Last week, excerpts of the opening statement Mr. Abdallah said he wanted to read at the trial were published in the magazine Nouvelle Observateur.



Georges I. Abdallah

2 Arabs face sabotage charges in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — A Syrian diplomat, a Jordanian employee of the Kingdom's embassy here and eight Turks have been charged with sabotage in the bombing of a munitions depot last summer that killed seven firefighters, according to a copy of the indictment obtained Monday.

The indictment accuses Mohammad Darwish Baladi, a second secretary at the Syrian embassy here, of ordering Adnan Musa Suleiman Ammarin, a Jordanian embassy translator, to organise a team of commandos to blow up the depot.

The indictment alleges that the attack was carried out with the help of a Turkish explosives expert who was trained in Syria and seven Turkish workers at the depot who belong to the outlawed Turkish Communist Party.

The attack took place last August at the munitions depot in the central Anatolian province of Kırıkkale near this capital city. Seven firefighters were killed and 24 others wounded.

The 60-page indictment was prepared by state security court prosecutor Utku Coskun, who demanded life imprisonment for all those charged in the blast. A copy of the indictment was obtained by AP.

Tower report could seal Regan's ouster

WASHINGTON (R) — White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan is close to being forced out of office and the Tower Commission report on the Iran-contra scandal may be the final blow, according to political sources.

Mr. Regan, President Ronald Reagan's top aide for two years, has faced a barrage of criticism over the past three months for his role in the Iran scandal and has also been reported to be at odds with Nancy Reagan.

Until now Mr. Regan has rejected suggestions that he resign but the political sources said Sunday that low marks in the Tower report, due out on Thursday, may force him to step down.

One Republican source told Reuters the Reagan's daughter Maureen had sided with Nancy against Mr. Regan. "Once you have family members against you, it is pretty tough to survive," the source said.

Another Republican source predicted Mr. Regan would be gone within two weeks to be replaced by Reagan confidant Paul Laxalt, a former Nevada senator.

A Regan ally confirmed there had been "some animosity" between him and Nancy Reagan but said the chief of staff still felt he has been unfairly put upon and did not intend to resign.

"The feeling is that he is going to come out of (the Tower Commission) okay," the source said.

Mr. Regan's account of the Iran arms sales conflicts with that of former National Security

Adviser Robert McFarlane, who has said the president gave prior approval for the sales.

Mr. Regan has said the president proved the arms sales only after they started, and the conflict between the versions has become a key issue in probes into the scandal.

A source close to the commission said members appeared to be convinced that Mr. McFarlane's version was "essentially accurate."

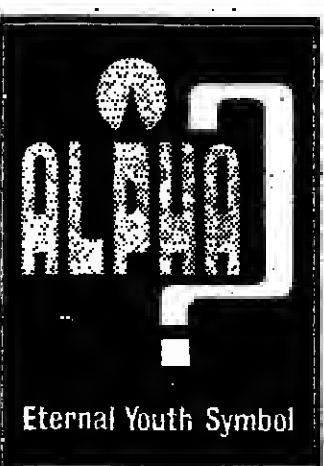
Asked if this meant Regan had lied or distorted the record to protect Mr. Reagan, the source said: "Let's just say the commission has reason to think that McFarlane has been extremely forthcoming and credible."

Mr. McFarlane, a key player in the affair, was interviewed by the Panel on Sunday at Bethesda Navy Hospital where he is recovering from an apparent suicide attempt on Feb. 9.

White House spokesmen have for several days declined all comment until after the Tower report is published.

The Washington Post said on Sunday in a story co-written by Lou Cannon, a Reagan biographer, that Mr. Regan "appears to have lost his long struggle to keep his job."

It cited his reported feud with Nancy Reagan and network television reports that the commission will blame Mr. Regan for not being "fully candid" and for helping to prepare a misleading chronology of events.



Eternal Youth Symbol

Junblatt: Militia weapons could be used against Israel, Gemayel

West Beirutis voice mixed feeling about Syrian troops

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanese Druze chieftain Walid Junblatt has said militia weapons to be collected in Muslim-controlled west Beirut could be used against Israel and the Falangist Party of President Amin Gemayel.

"The Syrian troops could do a lot in west Beirut to establish law and order. Militia heavy arms and weapons could be used somewhere else ... against Israel, Gemayel ...," he told a news conference as thousands of Syrian troops poured into west Beirut to clear gunmen off the streets.

Witnesses said units of a 4,000-strong force drove to staging posts in various parts of the city while dozens of Syrian tanks massed at Beirut airport.

Mr. Junblatt was one of five Lebanese leaders, including Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who requested the Syrian force after a week of fierce militia battles in west Beirut.

Mr. Gemayel and other Falangist leaders have criticised the request as unconstitutional and Syrian intervention as unacceptable.

Israel has reacted with caution to the Syrian move. Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel would prefer Syrian troops to stay out of west Beirut, but would decide how to react after a careful study of the situation.

"From the Israeli point of view, it is preferable that the Syrians do not return to Beirut even in small numbers," Mr. Rabin told state radio before the Syrian troops entered the city.

"We will see what develops and weigh our steps."

Mr. Junblatt said he was willing to hand over all his militia

weapons to the Syrians.

"I am ready to bring all my arms from west Beirut and the Shouf (mainly Druze-populated areas) to Damascus and give them to the Syrians," he said.

He said he was going to Lebanon Monday to give his militia "clear instructions to give up arms and to tell them that what happened in west Beirut was a big blunder and that arms are no longer needed."

Mr. Junblatt said he hoped the new security plan and implementation of law and order would apply to everyone, apparently referring to the rival Syrian-backed Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia.

Syria's chief of military operations in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, Sunday warned armed men to give up their arms and keep off west Beirut streets.

"There will be no more suffering after today," Brig. Kanaan told radio stations. "I ask all gunmen to give up their weapons and go back to their homes. From now on we will have no mercy on gunmen in the street."

Mr. Junblatt warned that absence of a "clear and explicit" political plan that backs the security plan "will be a danger to everybody." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Junblatt suggested some Palestinians in Lebanon could retain their arms to be used against fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader

Yasser Arafat.

"It is a must to keep some arms in the hands of patriotic Palestinians and help them against the Arafat people. This is my opinion. I may be wrong."

"We still need a kind of Palestinian-Lebanese armed presence to face the Israelis in the South and the Falangists in the North," Mr. Junblatt said.

He added: "We have to help the Syrian army together to get out all saboteurs — Palestinians and Lebanese. I think the Syrians are more keen than myself to protect the Palestinians."

Meanwhile west Beirutis watched warily as thousands of Syrian troops roared into their city to end a week of ferocious militia battles which killed about 200 people.

"If they clean out the militias and their weapons, yes, we will all be with them," said Khaled Labban, 40, as he swept debris and glass from his fire-blackened home.

Syrian soldiers, chanting pledges to restore peace, rumbled into town Sunday in columns of tanks, troop carriers and trucks. They secured key positions and settled for the night in parks, sports stadiums and Lebanese army barracks.

Hundreds of Shi'ite Muslims cheered the Syrian tanks as they clattered towards west Beirut through the coastal slums of Quzai, untouched by last week's fighting between the Shi'ite Amal militia and its Druze and Communist rivals.

No flowers and rice were thrown, Lebanon's traditional way of welcoming friendly forces. One bystander said rice had become too expensive to waste for

people hit by an economic crisis.

But in the hattered heart of west Beirut, where Sunni and Druze mingle with Christians and Armenians, as well as Shi'ites, the mood was grim.

People stared in silence from their balconies or whispered in small groups as the heavily-armed Syrians fanned out.

Carloads of Amal militiamen cheered and waved assault rifles as they drove alongside the incoming Syrian trucks.

Druze and Communist fighters slipped silently away or withdrew to militia barracks and party offices.

"Let's hope we won't be seeing any battles between those guys and the Syrians," said one resident, pointing to a car full of Druze militiamen racing away.

"Then again, we wouldn't mind the devil himself if he could end this lawlessness and chaos," he added.

Wary residents emerged from cellars and shelters to see their city in a shambles. About 500 people were wounded in six days of close-quarter fighting which involved artillery, tanks, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns.

Some citizens, cynical after almost 12 years of civil war and militia anarchy, voiced doubts about the Syrian role.

"I don't believe the Syrians were sent here on a peace mission. I think we should expect more fighting," said one man, who asked not to be named.

"It seems strange that Syria, which originally supplied arms to the militias, can't now order them to lay down their weapons, and has to send thousands of troops to collect them," said another.

New report splits U.S., Israeli differences on Lavi

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional report put a new wrinkle into the U.S.-Israeli dispute over whether Tel Aviv should build a new jet fighter or scrap the programme and buy U.S.-built planes.

Israel estimates its Lavi fighters will cost \$14.5 million each. U.S. government, which is providing most of the money to develop the Lavi, estimates the cost at \$22.1 million each and says Israel should buy U.S.-built planes instead.

But the General Accounting Office (GAO) says both the Pentagon and Israel are wrong. More likely, the cost will turn out to be about \$17.5 million each, the congressional agency said.

Congressman Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Middle East Subcommittee, said in a statement that the GAO report raises "serious financial questions" which should be answered by the United States and Israel.

The Israeli government announced the Lavi programme eight years ago with the intention of producing an Israeli-built plane for use by the Jewish state's air force. The Lavi, a Hebrew word meaning "lion," would replace Israel's ageing arsenal of U.S.-produced A-4 Skyhawks and Israeli-built Kfir fighters.

Israel wants to build 300 Lavys with the first to be produced in 1990.

Thus far, according to the GAO, \$1.3 billion, or 90 per cent of the Lavi's development cost, has come from U.S. assistance.

Although the planes would be constructed in Israel, U.S. industry is heavily involved in the programme. As of last November, the GAO noted, 120 U.S. firms had Lavi contracts.

But the two allies have argued over the cost and U.S. officials have recently pressed Israel to scrap the project and replace the Lavi with U.S.-built planes such as the F-16.

The GAO report found that there "are significant differences" between the Pentagon and Israel over how to estimate the cost of the Lavi. Some of the disagreements come from different ways of calculating the cost, it noted.

But the GAO warned that "neither estimate provides for significant shippings or other unforeseen problems, which could increase costs."

In reaction to the GAO, the Israeli embassy issued a statement which read, in part, "Israel is mindful of the fact that whether it builds the Lavi or indeed any alternative to meet its operational requirements, a heavy economic burden will have to be borne. At the same time, Israel is confident that its economic growth, combined with its technological advancement, will support this programme."

U.S. denies raid aimed to kill Qadhafi

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House has denied a newspaper report that the United States deliberately set out to kill Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in air raids on Tripoli last April.

"The bombs that fell on the Qadhafi family compound were targeted on military barracks 200 metres away," White House spokesman Dan Howard told Reuters. "There was no plan to go after Qadhafi specifically."

Mr. Howard said he knew of no expectation that Col. Qadhafi would be in the military barracks at the time of the raid.

"They (the U.S. planes) simply overshoot the target," Mr. Howard said.

The New York Times reported

Sunday that the real aim of the raid was not to strike guerrilla and military facilities as the Reagan administration claimed, but to assassinate the Libyan leader.

New York Times reporter Seymour Hersh, who said he interviewed more than 70 U.S. officials and servicemen, quoted one U.S. Air Force intelligence officer as saying: "There is no question they were looking for Qadhafi. It was briefed that way. They were going to kill him."

Col. Qadhafi's 15-month-old adopted daughter was among scores of people reported killed in the raids on the Libyan capital and on Benghazi.

Hersh said the plan was coordinated by the National Security Council (NSC), the same body involved in secret arms sales to Iran.

He said Lieutenant Colonel North, who was fired from the NSC after the Iran scandal broke in November 1986, was a moving force behind the planned attack on Col. Qadhafi.

Richard Shadyac, counsel to the Libyan government, dismissed the White House denial.

"There is no question as to why the raid was held. They (the United States) wanted to knock off Qadhafi," says Mr. Shadyac told Cable News Network Television.

Honduras reportedly bought Soviet-made arms from Israel

NEW YORK (AP) — The Honduran military purchased millions of dollars worth of Soviet-made weaponry from Israel, according to a report.

The Honduran military normally does not use the types of weapons purchased, but the anti-Nicaraguan contra rebels do, said the report on the CBS television network programme "60 Minutes."

The programme said Sunday it had received certificates signed by a high Honduran official documenting the purchase of 2,000 RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenades and 4,000 AK47 assault rifles from the Israeli Defence Ministry.

Gen. Walter Lopez, who commanded the Honduran Armed Forces from 1984 to 1986, told the programme the Hondurans do not use the weapons. The programme said Honduran military officials told it the weapons were purchased for training.

Jack Terrell, a mercenary who spent several months with the contras in 1984 and 1985, told the programme that contra officials told him they were receiving arms from Israel.

Health ministers to discuss relief operations in Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will be taking part in the Arab Ministers of Health Council meetings due to open in Khartoum on March 4 to discuss health conditions of the Arab citizens in the Israeli-held Arab territories.

During the three-day meetings, the council will review a report on inter-Arab cooperation in organising relief operations and extending health and medical services to victims of the civil war in Lebanon and the Palestinian refugees in cooperation with the

Palestine Red Crescent Society. The council will also review the activities of the Arab health documentation and publications centre and the implementation of the council's earlier recommendations concerning the process of blood transfusion, protection against radiation and training Arab doctors and researchers.

The council is also scheduled to discuss issues pertaining to the use of medicine and coordination among world and regional organisations in health-related affairs.

Israeli witness claims Demjanjuk is 'Ivan'

TEL AVIV (R) — A survivor of a Nazi death camp told a packed Israeli courtroom Monday that alleged war criminal John Demjanjuk was a notorious guard "Ivan the terrible" who beat and killed prisoners and ordered one to have sex with a teenage girl who had survived a gas chamber.

Dozens of spectators clapped when Pinhas Epstein, 62, pointed an index finger at the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk and told the three-judge court: "that's him."

Presiding Judge Dov Levin shouted in anger: "Quiet in the court. That will not occur. The public in an Israeli court may sit and listen but it cannot react."

Israel accuses Demjanjuk, 66, of being "Ivan the terrible," who operated the gas chambers and committed atrocities at Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland in World War II.

Demjanjuk — brought to Israel from Cleveland, Ohio, where he was a car worker — sat impassively beside a policeman and translator. He denies being "Ivan" and says his is a case of mistaken identity.

Epstein, now an Israeli and the first of eight Treblinka survivors to testify, wiped tears from his eyes while describing how he was assigned to remove bodies from the gas chambers at Treblinka.

He said he and other workers were ordered to sit while a thick-set man known as Ivan pressed the button to activate the gas at Treblinka where prosecutors say 870,000 people were killed.

Syrian soldiers battle gunmen in west Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, on Sunday issued a warning to all militias to free scores of people missing in a wave of kidnappings.

Earlier, Syrians set up checkpoints, while troops bristling with weapons headed to one area where a local radio reported a man had been shot dead.

Political sources said Syria gave militia leaders a 24-hour secret deadline Sunday night to pull their fighters off the streets.

They said Syria would boost the strength of its forces in Beirut to about 10,000 troops and had warned that it would not hesitate to take firm action to stamp out any further unrest.

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"It is strange," said a boutique owner in once-fashionable Hamra district, scoured by street battles over the past week. "We woke up this morning to see the streets empty of gunmen. As if by magic, they simply disappeared."

Many shops and banks opened for the first time in a week and thousands of people trapped in bomb shelters streamed to work following the first major deployment of Syrian troops in the divided capital since 1982.

"We're used to this," said a bank clerk as traffic clogged one avenue. "Give us a few hours of peace and quiet and you'd think nothing had happened."

Mujahedeen reports anti-war protests in Iran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian anti-government guerrillas said Monday that Revolutionary Guards opened fire on hundreds of people who were protesting against the Iran-Iraq war, wounding several.

The People's Mujahedeen said the demonstrators in the north western city of Tabriz chanted slogans against the war and called for peace with Baghdad in a protest on Feb. 14.

Several hours after the protest began and "fearing the spread of the demonstration," the government's Revolutionary Guards opened fire on the crowd.

Claims by opposition groups and by the Iranian government can seldom be independently confirmed.

Chad reports new clash in Aouzou Strip

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad said Monday that its forces had clashed with Libyan troops for the second time in two weeks in the disputed Aouzou Strip in the far north of the country, killing seven Libyan soldiers.

The vast desert strip is claimed by Libya, which Chad says has occupied it for the past 14 years.

An army high command statement said Sunday's ambush took place at Yebbi-Summa, a few kilometres south of the town of Aouzou.

Four Libyan soldiers were wounded and two heavy transport vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition were destroyed along with two jeeps carrying ground-to-ground missiles, it said. Chadian forces suffered no casualties, it added.

It was the second time this month that Chad has reported fighting in the Aouzou Strip, where, according to Western intelligence reports, Libya has concentrated a large number of troops involved in fighting in northern Chad.

Chad reported the earlier clash in the strip on Feb. 12. It was

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

7:30 AM - 11:30 PM

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

15:55 Programme Review

16:20 Cartoons

16:30 Investigative Boy

16:40 Ecology Workshop

17:00 Punk Brewster

17:30 Festivals of the World

18:00 Religious programme

18:30 Arab Series

19:30 Local programme on Education

19:50 Programme Review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:30 Law and the Society (local)

22:10 Songs from the movies (local)

23:00 News Summary in Arabic

23:10 Arabic Play

00:20 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Monitors pour fire et pleurer

19:00 News in French

19:15 French Varieties

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Economics Made Easy

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Ever Decreasing Circles

21:10 Tuesday variety show

22:00 News in English

22:20 The Fourth Arm

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM

partly on 850 KHz. SW

Tel: 77411-10

07:00 Light Music

07:30 Newslet

08:00 Morning Show

10:00 News Summary

10:05 Morning Show Cont.

11:00 Comedy

11:30 Easy Listening

12:00 News Summary

12:05 Readings

12:30 Pop Session

13:00 News Summary

13:05 Pop Session Cont.

14:00 News Bulletin

14:10 Instrumentals

14:30 Pop Talk

15:00 Concert Hour

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Instrumentals, Old Favorites

17:00 Jordan Weekly

18:00 Pop Session

18:05 News Summary

18:10 Top Twenty

19:00 News Desk

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition entitled "Basilika" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28).

* An exhibition of sports photographs by Soviet photographer Igor Odian from TASS news agency at Yarmouk University in Irbid (until Feb. 26).

* An art exhibition by Mohammed Pasha and Munira Al-Tunisi at the Housing Bank Centre Gallery.

* An exhibition of plastic arts marking the University of Jordan's silver jubilee at the university (until March 4).

VIDEO

* The ABC News at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

* "Les Yeux" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267

American Centre .. 644371

American Centre Library .. 641320

French Council .. 6361478

French Cultural Centre .. 637009

Goethe Institute .. 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777

Haya Arts Centre .. 665195

Husseini Youth City .. 667816

Y.W.C.A. .. 641793

Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251

Arabian Museum .. 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" .. Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Peddlers Museum .. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has

NEWS IN BRIEF

New governors for Amman, Irbid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin has been appointed governor of the Amman region in accordance with a decision by Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani. Mr. Amin succeeds Mr. Ahmad Hindawi who retired some two months ago. The minister also decided to appoint Mr. Akran Al Naser, who previously served as governor at the Ministry of Interior, to succeed Mr. Amin as governor of Irbid. The new appointments take effect as of March 1, 1987.

Khayyat calls on Swareddahab

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat on Monday visited Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, former head of the military council in Sudan, who left hospital Sunday after a successful open heart surgery. Dr. Khayyat was accompanied by his under-secretary, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi.

Majali graduates police officers

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali on Monday stressed the importance of training in upgrading the department's performance to enable it offer the best services to the country and citizens. Speaking during a graduation ceremony of a special police training course, he said the department takes pride in the good standard of training and preparation of PSD staff. The graduates presented performances of physical fitness, fighting, shooting and rescue operations before receiving their certificates.

VTC starts guidance service at school

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) is currently embarking on a vocational guidance and counselling programme for students at preparatory schools. Under the programme, which is being carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, students are being oriented on the various vocational training programmes and courses offered by the VTC. The vocational training programmes include mechanical and electrical trades, carpentry, welding, central heating, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, building, printing, hotel training and radio and television maintenance, in addition to the maintenance of office machines and child care.

Jordan to attend ALO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in an Arab Labour Organisation conference due to open in Baghdad during March. Jordan will be represented at the week-long meetings by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan. A Ministry of Labour source said that the meeting will discuss subjects on the agenda for the International Labour Organisation conference in June, adding that the Baghdad talks will try to unify Arab countries' stands on different subjects to be taken up at the ILO conference.

Ministry destroys spoiled foodstuffs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Supply Ministry has destroyed 2,462 kilograms of expired fruits, canned food, milk, vegetables and cereals after these foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption. The commodities were destroyed by the ministry during January and included: 142 kilograms of canned fruits, 129 kilograms of canned vegetables, 232 kilograms of sweets, 517 kilograms of meat, 363 kilograms of fish, 30 kilograms of cooking oil, and 539 kilograms of milk.

New book exposes Zionist designs at the U.N.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Zionist Terrorism: Targeting the U.N. and international resolutions

By Arafat Hijazi
Published by Dar Al Sabab Press
and Publishing House, 1987
Amman.

Price \$9.95 (hardcover).

MANY books have been written and published on the world Zionist movement and its unscrupulous drive to establish and maintain the Jewish state in the Middle East through terrorism, extortion, blackmail as well as military incursions.

Now for the first time, a well-known Jordanian writer and journalist has put together the research findings to establish a definite pattern in the international behaviour of the world Zionist movement — specifically aimed at bending the United Nations (U.N.) to the designs of the Jewish state.

In his book "Zionist Terrorism: Targeting the U.N. and International Resolutions," Mr. Arafat Hijazi, former president of the Jordanian Journalists Association, focuses on the experiences of a number of international personalities, dead and living, who had worked for the U.N.

BOOK REVIEW

Mr. Hijazi narrates the stories of Kurt Waldheim (now Austria's President), Dag Hammarskjöld, Count Folke Bernadotte, General Von Horn, all men who refused to surrender to Zionist design in Palestine and the region. As a result of their stands, these five U.N. leaders suffered terrorist acts. Mr. Hijazi shows how these acts have been "justified by the talmud" and what Mr. Hijazi calls the "faked Old Testament."

Heart recipient dies after severe seizure

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ahmad Abu Shaqra, Jordan's second heart recipient died on Monday, two days after being admitted to hospital with a severe seizure, a hospital source has announced. He was 24.

Mr. Shaqra's death was caused by "his body's severe and sudden rejection of the transplanted heart," according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which quoted "an official medical source" of the Royal Medical Services of the King Hussein Medical Centre. Intensive care could not save the patient, it added.

The unnamed source confirmed that Mr. Shaqra had enjoyed "excellent health" following the successful heart transplant in April, 1986, until Saturday when he was admitted to hospital.

Mr. Shaqra's friend Abdullah Khalil who was also the first ever heart recipient in the Kingdom in August, 1985, told Petra that Mr. Shaqra had not been taking his prescribed medication (Cyclosporin) for the last three weeks "because of a problem with his family." The medication functions to facilitate the body's acceptance of the transplanted heart.

Transport minister visits precast concrete company

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakkhon on Monday visited the Jordanian precast concrete company and met the company's director general, Mr. Hisham Izzuddin, and the company's board of directors.

Mr. Dakkhon was briefed on the company's establishment and the stages of producing reinforced concrete. The minister was accompanied on his visit by the ministry's under secretary Ihsan Al Nabulsi.

Mr. Izzuddin said that his company started to produce concrete

Hospital officials were not immediately available for comment.

On April 16, 1986, a team of Jordanian army doctors performed the heart transplant on Mr. Shaqra who was suffering from congestive cardiomyopathy. The transplanted heart was taken from a 15-year-old Jordanian, Khader Hijazeen, who was declared brain dead at the time.

The donor, who suffered an acute cerebral haemorrhage due to congenital malformation in the brain, was admitted to the hospital unconscious, a day before the transplant operation which was permitted by the Hijazeen family. His family also agreed to the donation of the boy's kidney to another patient, Nazmiyah Baker, 45, who suffered chronic renal failures. Both successful operations were performed simultaneously.

Dr. Da'oud Hanania, leading the team of cardiac surgeons operating on Mr. Shaqra, declared the operation was 85 per cent successful after the surgery.

Mr. Khalil, the first recipient as well as two other heart recipients in the Kingdom are reported to be in good condition.

Mr. Khalil is said to be leading a normal life, working as a clerk at the Queen Alia Heart Centre, going home and reporting to work on foot, keeping fit jogging at least three kilometres a day.

Transport minister visits precast concrete company

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Mr. Izzuddin said that his company started to produce concrete

sleepers for the Aqaba Railway Corporation after winning a JD 3 million contract to supply 195,000 concrete sleepers. He added that the company's current production capacity is 170,000 sleepers a year which is sufficient for 100 kilometres of railroad. He added that the company plans to increase its production capacity to 200,000 sleepers a year to meet Jordan's need of sleepers in addition to supporting the national economy and providing 65 jobs. The company was established in 1982 with a working capital of JD 4 million, Mr. Izzuddin said.

Well-known Italian novelist Moravia visiting Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Italian journalist and novelist Alberto Moravia is currently in Amman on a private visit to Jordan.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Luigi Amadei Monday hosted a luncheon in honour of Mr. Moravia who is accompanied by his wife, Carmen. Mr. Moravia will visit the city of Petra on Tuesday.

Mr. Moravia, who is well known for his short stories, has

written novels which deal with emotional aridity, isolation and existential frustration.

Critics have praised his stark, unadorned style, his psychological penetration, his narrative skill, and his ability to create authentic characters and realistic dialogue.

Mr. Moravia's books of short stories include Racconti Romani (Roman Tales), Nuovi Racconti Romani (More Roman Tales) and Il Paradiso (Paradise).

Higher council endorses draft medical insurance for private sector

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh said Monday that the Higher Health Council has endorsed a draft law on establishing a health insurance fund for private sector personnel. The draft law, which has been finalised by a special committee, will be referred to the Cabinet for approval after the completion of financial studies by consultants and other concerned parties in the private sector, Dr. Hamzeh said at a press conference on Monday.

He added that the council has endorsed the project in accordance with specific provisions for establishing a private sector health insurance fund to be run by a board of directors comprising representatives of all the concerned parties. The project's law also provide for defining the beneficiary groups and identifying the services to be offered. The fund will be financed through contributions to be deducted from salaries of the staff involved.

The minister added that the fund's board will draw up a working plan with the sectors which provide medical services and will also identify the relations between the two sides.

Dr. Hamzeh added that some 3,000 private institutions and companies with a staff of approximately one million will benefit from the project. He added that the fund's initial allocations will be some JD 60 million which will be provided through the financing sources as set out in the study prepared by the special committee.

Dr. Hamzeh went on to say that the council will draw up a regulation for the proposed fund, during the forthcoming session of the Higher Health Council, in preparation for submission to the Cabinet for approval. Following this move, private companies and institutions will be asked to pay their contributions to the fund.

After setting up the private sector health insurance fund, Dr. Hamzeh said there will be three health insurance funds: one for the public sector, one for the armed forces and the third for private sector. However, he added, the three funds will be integrated in a comprehensive national health insurance scheme.

Rifai, Dudin hold talks with Canadian parliamentarians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Monday met with a visiting Canadian parliamentary delegation led by Senator Lorne Bonnel.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting did not elaborate on the discussions which were attended by ministers of parliament and Jordan's ambassador to Canada.

Later, the delegation were received by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, who briefed them on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the Jordanian government's efforts to offer help to Arab citizens living under Israeli rule. Since the 1967 occupation of the West Bank, Jordan's assistance to the West Bank has not stopped, and the government has been paying salaries to its employees and teachers in addition to taking measures to improve educational, social and health services for the Arab population, the minister explained.

He said that the Jordanian-sponsored five-year economic and social programme for the West Bank is part of Jordan's long programme or assistance to the Arab inhabitants.

Referring to the Israeli occupation, the minister said that the Israelis continually violate international principles and human rights in the Arab territory they have been occupying since 1967. He said that Israel arrests Arab citizens, closes down educational institutions and imposes restrictions on travel, as well as curfews on towns and villages in the occupied West Bank.

In addition, the Israeli authorities continue to impose heavy taxes on the Arab people, despite the deteriorating economic conditions in the occupied areas and at the same time they do not provide social and health services to the Arab inhabitants, Mr. Dudin added.

Settlements

The minister also spoke about Israel's settlement policies which, he said, are designed to perpetuate Israel's occupation and to force the Arabs to abandon their homeland. Since 1967, Israel has set up 195 settlements in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and has brought in 63,000 Jews to live in these settlements, the minister pointed out. He said since 1967 the Israeli authorities have confiscated

2,781,724 dunums of Arab land, nearly half the total area of the West Bank. The minister said that the settlement policy constitutes a stumbling block in the path of peace.

Mr. Dudin reiterated Jordan's call for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 through an international conference in which all concerned parties should take part.

The meeting was attended by senior ministry officials and parliament's Secretary General Hani Khair.

The Canadian delegation later visited the Baqaa refugee camp where they met Mr. Dennis Brown, the deputy director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jordan. The delegation were briefed on the educational and health services offered by UNRWA and the Jordanian government to the Palestinian refugees and they toured UNRWA schools and health centres in the camp.

In an interview with the Associated Press on Sunday Senator Bonnel said he expected greater Canadian support for Jordan's Middle East peace efforts.

"There certainly will be no decrease (in support) because Canadian and Jordanian relations are becoming stronger," said Senator Bonnel, a liberal from Prince Edward Island.

He is accompanied by three members of the House of Com-

mons, all Conservatives: Bob Hicks of Scarborough, Ontario, Bob Pennoek of Etobicoke, Ontario, and Terry Clifford of London, Ontario.

Senator Bonnel said they hoped to bear "the viewpoint of the Jordanian people, because we in Canada do not get a very unbiased view as far as Jordan is concerned." But he said Canada's support for Jordan appeared to be growing.

The Canadian group is scheduled to spend a week in Jordan, including two days on the West Bank.

"We came here at the invitation of (Jordan's) Parliament to bring first-hand their views on how we might be able to assist in bringing the major parties to the conflict to a negotiating table to negotiate a peace settlement," Senator Bonnel said. He added that the delegation would also discuss possible cooperation "in education and communications technology, maybe in agriculture and fisheries."

Prince Hassan meets Canadian delegation

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday met the Canadian delegation. During the meeting the Crown Prince explained the latest developments in Middle East.

Later Monday the Canadian ambassador hosted a dinner banquet in honour of the visiting delegation.

The banquet was attended by Jordanian parliamentarians and members of the diplomatic corps.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday receives the Canadian parliamentary delegation (Petra photo)

Months of uncertainty and mounting losses forced closure of Queen Alia Hospital, director says

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The financially-troubled Queen Alia Hospital, hit by huge debts and administrative constraints, has announced it will close its doors as of Feb. 25. The closure will entail laying off all 150 members of the hospital's staff — including doctors and nursing staff.

"It also means shelving a pioneering medical project which, had it been given the chance, could have boosted the level of health services in the Kingdom," said the hospital's director Khaled Beseiso. He said the hospital "will stop receiving patients as of this Thursday" and that it would close down as soon as the last of the present eight patients was discharged.

The hospital has had financial troubles since the very day it opened in November 1985, noted Mr. Beseiso, pointing out that the monthly break-even point for the 250-bed hospital, which is equipped with some of the most advanced medical equipment, was estimated to be JD 50,000 to JD 60,000. Informed sources said the hospital was operating only one of its four floors and that the average monthly income was in the region of JD 25,000.

According to one hospital employee, "unforeseen expenses and a high amount of interest on loans, in addition to various other negative factors, caused the gradual collapse of the hospital." The employee, who preferred not to be quoted by name, said that successive administrative efforts, spearheaded by the hospital's present director, failed to strike a balance between returns and payments. The efforts could only manage to delay the eventual closure of the facility while the management sought ways and means to avert such an eventuality, the employee told the Jordan Times.

The hospital is owned by a group of investors including some 30 doctors with various specialisations in medicine and surgery. The location of the hospital is also said to have been a problem due to transport difficulties and a lack of proper access roads. The hospital is located on a hill over-

looking Amman some seven kilometres south of the Sports City.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, an official at the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) claimed that it "was not feasible to extend a bus route to the hospital for the time being."

In his interview, Mr. Beseiso contended that the hospital's already troubled situation was further aggravated due to the fact that a preliminary decision by the government to buy the hospital did not materialise. Anticipating an eventual government purchase of the hospital, he continued, "the management did not pursue any other means for its rescue." Moreover, the hospital's undetermined future added to its financial straits and created a lack of confidence in the hospital's facilities, Mr. Beseiso underlined.

According to the hospital director, the decision to close down the facility was taken only after all efforts to save the loss-incurring operation failed.

Contacted by the Jordan Times on Saturday, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said that the government has not taken any decision to purchase or subsidise the hospital. "So far, the government has not contemplated acting on the issue," Dr. Hamzeh said in a telephone interview.

Alternatives contemplated by the management included selling the facility to the government or the armed forces, which could use the advanced equipment — reputed to be the most modern in the Middle East — as an extension of its Al Hussein Medical Centre.

Subsequently, in late 1985, the hospital presented the armed forces with a formal offer. However, according to Mr. Beseiso, "we did not even receive a reply to our offer, which was based on our cost price of JD 14,600,000." But, he said, he understood that the armed forces made a recommendation to the government, which formed a panel to study the offer. The committee comprised the ministers of finance, industry, trade and supply, public works and health.

According to Mr. Beseiso, the panel concluded that the cost of price cited by the management of

the hospital was correct and acceptable. However, "they did not raise the subject again despite repeated approaches from our side," said Mr. Beseiso.

Government sources earlier stated that the ministerial panel was planning to meet the Jordan Medical Corporation board of directors, which runs the hospital in order to reach a final decision. A response by the government was never received.

The hospital director cited several factors which he said brought about the hospital's financial straits. "First of all, we were told that the 40-dunum piece of land where it is built was to be given to us free of cost by the armed forces. But as it turned out, through a series of discussions, offers and transactions, we paid a total of JD 430,000 in registration charges etc. related to the land and building regulations of the Kingdom."

The cost of constructing the complex, including the main hospital, operating theatres, secondary buildings and related facilities, amounted to JD 7,330,000. On average, the cost per bed in the hospital was JD 35,000, including equipment. In addition, the hospital paid JD 1,150,000 for furniture and equipment in a separate tender. Another JD 200,000 was paid for X-ray machines.

Approximately half a million dinars were spent on acquiring C.T. scan equipment, the first of its kind to be bought by a private-owned hospital in the Kingdom, according to Mr. Beseiso. A special doctors' and nursing staff complex was built next to the hospital.

In addition, half a million dinars were spent on setting up a wastewater treatment plant and JD 50,000 on building a smelter/furnace for destroying used medical supplies.

Mr. Beseiso had bitter words of complaint against what he described as a lack of cooperation from the authorities. "They refused to extend the main sewerage network to the hospital and we paid JD 60,000 to build our own network and link it with the mains system," he said. "The authorities turned down our request for a good road to be built to connect the hospital with the

main road. Subsequently, we paid JD 20,000 for constructing a road. Again, the Ministry of Public Works promised that it would arrange an access road which could cut the total distance considerably. But when work started on this project, Amman municipal authorities objected to it and the project was shelved. These expenses which have not been accounted for, coupled with higher taxations levied on the hospital's imported medical equipment, hiked the projects cost price," Mr. Beseiso said.

He added: "One the access road was built, we approached the Public Transport Corporation with a request for a bus route to the hospital. The request was rejected."

Loans

"The net result of all these unforeseen expenses was that we were forced to raise external loans to the tune of \$16 million since our total capital, when we set out with the project was JD 5 million," said Mr. Beseiso. The loan was made available by a Bahraini-based consortium of international banks. He went on to say that "once we got going in November 1985, we were forced to raise another JD 1.5 million government-guaranteed loan from a consortium of local banks."

Construction of the hospital, which claims the highest medical standard in the Middle East started in March 1982 ended in August 1984. Today, the hospital has to pay an average of JD 3,000 a day in interest on JD 13.5 million in accumulated loans.

Mr. Beseiso defended the administrative and financial policy of Dr. Zuhair Malhas, a key shareholder and a member of the corporation's board until he resigned four months ago. Dr. Malhas did his best to make the project a success and secured tax exemptions on medical apparatus to approximately JD 800,000, the director said.

Contacted by phone last week, Dr. Malhas declined to give any details about the hospital on grounds that he had left his administrative position in the project.

Jordan Times

Publication of the Board of Directors
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 Responsible Editor and Director General
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 Editor in Chief
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 Editorial and advertising offices
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 University Road, P.O. Box 6719, Amman, Jordan
 Telephone: 667171-6, 67941-4
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 Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
 Jordan Times advertising department.

Shamir calling the shots

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir took his American jaunt to Los Angeles after a three-day stop in Washington. Judging from his remarks in Washington and Los Angeles, Shamir has no worries about continued U.S. support, no matter what Israel does. In one act of defiance, he told a crowd of journalists in Washington that Israel had no intention of halting its weapons trade with South Africa, despite the Anti-Apartheid Act passed by the U.S. Congress late last year. The congressional act requires the American president to supply Congress with a list of countries providing arms to South Africa "with a view to terminating United States military assistance." Not surprisingly, Shamir said he did not expect the Reagan administration to cut off military aid to his country, no matter what. His arrogance is understandable since Israel has recently been promoted from a mere ally to the status of a "major non-NATO ally," and has the powerful pro-Israeli lobby guarding its interest in Congress.

Shamir's statement to the Washington journalists followed similar defiant statements earlier on his to the U.S. He had dismissed the possibility of an international peace conference on the Middle East, even though U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz expressed qualified interest in the idea of holding such a parity. Never mind that the conference that Shultz was thinking about was not exactly the forum that is truly needed to conduct successful peace negotiations. Shultz had said that he only favoured having "some device that has the label 'international conference' on it," which could lead to direct bilateral negotiations. Even this mere facade of a conference was rejected out of hand by Shamir.

As if to underscore his contempt for U.S. interests and policy in the Middle East, the Israeli prime minister also rejected a U.S. government request to ease his government's opposition to U.S. arms sales to Arab states. He said this despite the U.S. government's apparent determination that such sales and improved ties with Arab countries are crucial to repair the damage done by the U.S. arms sales to Iran and to restore U.S. credibility in the region.

And finally, Shamir's coup de grace was to accuse those who favour an international peace conference of participating in a Soviet-inspired plot. He said, before the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles: "Introducing the Soviet Union into the diplomatic process would weaken the very important role that the United States has been able to play as the respected friend of Israel and of most Arab countries."

This is certainly news to those of us here in Jordan and elsewhere who think that the United States has taken an increasingly one-sided view toward the Middle East, and has shown little interest in addressing, let alone solving, the injustices perpetrated by Israel in the Middle East. It is also news to us that an international peace conference would serve only the interest of the Soviet Union and would weaken prospects for a diplomatic settlement to the Palestinian issue. If anything, it is the absence of such a conference, and the successful bid by Israel to persuade the U.S. to follow its lead in the region, which has weakened the diplomatic process and prevented any progress towards a just solution for the Palestinian problem.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. credibility eroded

THE talks held between Yitzhak Shamir and U.S. officials in Washington have failed to yield an effective way for the achievement of peace between Israel and the Arabs, and made no headway towards the proposed international conference. This result was expected, in view of the eroded U.S. credibility and Israel's hostile attitude towards peace. The Americans, who allowed their credibility to be eroded by acting to fuel the Gulf conflict, find no problems in letting this credibility go into thin air over the Middle East issue; and they are not ashamed to go back on their pledges for helping in the establishment of peace. Following the Shamir-U.S. officials talks, Washington announced that it saw an international conference as a means for leading to direct negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis. It is worth noting that the international conference, which the Arabs call for, is completely different in nature and character from the U.S. ideas. Jordan has declared that an international conference should address itself to implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning the Middle East. This idea is rejected by the United States and Israel and so will not be possible for Washington to regain its credibility and no one can expect a positive American role in the peace process.

Al Dustour: Violence breeds violence

THE explosion which took place at Damascus Gate in Jerusalem on Sunday represents a natural reaction to Israel's arbitrary measures against the Arab population over the past two weeks. The blast was also an angry reply to Israel's continued drive to evict the Arab citizens from their homeland, and to confiscate their land and property. The attack, launched on a patrol that used to launch raids on homes and attack innocent people including children provides a proof that all repressive measures can only beget violence and more bloodshed. Of course the Israelis will not take a lesson from this strong reaction, and we expect them to continue the drive against the Arab citizens. The Israelis who are so arrogant and don't benefit from history lessons must realise that the resistance can never be stifled. We see in the Jerusalem blast a climax of a long series of resistance activity that emerged in the occupied territories as a result of Israel's repression over the past two weeks, and a strong determination by the Arab population to continue the struggle for liberation. We salute our Arab people under Israeli occupation who continue their courageous uprising against the invaders, and their arbitrary action. We wholeheartedly support all resistance activity that is designed to bring about freedom for our brothers.

Sawt Al Shaab: New hope for Lebanon

THE Lebanese people must have rejoiced over Syria's decision to send troops into Beirut for the sake of keeping order and removing the death from its streets. The sending of troops is the first step towards the establishment of total peace and the regaining of security and stability in the country. The half of the fighting in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon marks the beginning of a peace march and an end to the long sufferings of the Lebanese people who for the past years fell victim to the terrorists and their actions. We hope that the Syrian troops who are being deployed inside the capital will not only stem all forms of conflicts but strike at the source of the violence and those who disturb peace. The first step is for the troops to remove all armed men from the streets of Lebanon so that the way can be paved for re-instituting normal life; and the second step should be the closure of all offices run by the warring factions and militia groups that caused so much destruction and brought death to the Lebanese people over the past 11 years.

Despite reservations, Gates likely to be next U.S. spy chief

By Sue Baker
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — Barring new revelations in the next two weeks, Robert Gates appears likely to be confirmed by the Senate as America's youngest spy chief despite reservations over his role in the Iran arms scandal.

Gates, President Reagan's nominee to replace ailing William Casey as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, emerged battered but intact from two days of often stormy hearings in the Senate intelligence committee last week.

"He was obviously walking a very tight line between trying not to offend the White House and yet reassuring Congress the same mistakes won't happen again," a committee aide said.

But the committee has scheduled another session with Gates later this month — this time behind closed doors — and a news report that appeared two days after his open testimony could give already sceptical senators additional ammunition.

The Washington Post reported on Friday that Gates wrote a CIA paper in July 1985 proposing a U.S.-Egyptian attack on Libya. Gates, CIA intelligence analysis head at the time, said the operation could help "redraw the map of North Africa."

The committee's secret session was also planned to fall after the release of the Tower commission report next week.

The Tower panel, created by Reagan to investigate the White House National Security Council (NSC), is expected to shed damaging new light on the Iran arms scandal. But senators are also interested in anything it may reveal about Gates.

Exposure of the administration's covert arms to Iran, which is on the State Department's list of states supporting terrorism, deepened into a scandal after last November's disclosure that fired NSC aide Lt.-Col. Oliver North may have diverted funds to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels.

In his testimony before the committee, Gates: — Denied the agency had deliberately tried to mislead Congress by omitting key details from previous secret testimony to the intelligence panels.

— Denied the CIA broke any laws in participating in the secret operation, although he conceded that serious mistakes were made in its role of facilitating the arms shipments and arranging for financial transfers.

— Expressed his disapproval of the Iran arms sales, which Reagan said were to reach out to so-called moderates in Iran but which a Senate report said degenerated into a swap of arms for U.S. hostages held by pro-Iranian forces in Lebanon.

— Regretted he had not tried harder to convince his superiors that the intelligence panels should be notified of the covert programme as it is required to do by law. Reagan, in a January 1986 directive called a "finding," ordered Casey not to report to the committees.

— Attempted to distance himself from Casey, saying the former director "took the lead on Iran and Central America and I took the lead on other issues."

— Agreed with the administration that so-called "oral" findings are valid and he would comply, but said he would immediately follow up with a request for written orders. A dispute has arisen over whether Reagan verbally

approved two Israeli shipments of U.S. arms in the fall of 1985 — months before Reagan's finding waived a U.S. law barring such sales.

— Defended his failure to notify the committee of indication he received of a possible diversion of arms sales profits to the contras nearly two months before it became public. He called the evidence "extraordinarily flimsy."

Gates pledged to comply scrupulously with congressional requirements for prior notification of covert actions and said if a delay was needed for national security reasons, notification would come within a matter of days.

The committees were never notified of the Iran initiative. Gates also said he would consider resigning if he were ever ordered to withhold notification for more than a few days.

But Arizona Democrat Dennis Deconcini questioned Gates' resolve, asking, "do we have somebody here that's going to have the courage and the credibility to do what the law says regardless of what some president says he wants done?"

The picture that appeared to emerge from the two days of hearings was one of Gates as loyal deputy who opposed several aspects of the programme, expressed his disapproval, but in the end complied with orders from his superiors — a picture that disturbed some senators.

Senator Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, said he had deep reservations about a "high-ranking number-two man who plays it safe, doesn't speak up and says 'well in hindsight it should all have been done differently.'"



Robert Gates

"It seems to me to provide incentives for that kind of conduct and for a repetition of having this committee kept in the dark," Specter said during hearings.

But Frank Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, disagreed. "We're addressing a man's qualifications to do the job, not the kind of a job that the former director did," said Murkowski. "And to gather from that that Mr. Gates is going to make those same mistakes I think is very unfair."

But committee aides, and even some senators planning to oppose Gates in a vote likely to come early next month, concede the 43-year-old career intelligence officer is likely to become the youngest director in the CIA's 40-year history.

"He's not in serious trouble ... unless the Tower commission reveals something ... or something comes up at the closed session," the committee aide said.

Deconcini reluctantly agreed. "If I had to guess right now, or predict, he probably will get the votes," he said.

Gates, the CIA's deputy director since last April, has been acting director since Casey was incapacitated by brain surgery last December. Casey resigned last month.

Uneasy calm as S.African blacks return to school

By Laurinda Keys
 The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Emergency decrees and use of force have put the lid on the most determined student protests in South African history, sending blacks back to school with little to show for two years of boycott and riot.

The curriculum is the same, including Afrikaans language and white-centred history courses objected to by blacks. The policy of segregated education is unchanged, and there still are shortages of classrooms and trained teachers for blacks.

Above all, the prospect of the downfall of white-minority control — which some students had thought to be imminent — has receded far into the future. But "if it is a victory (for the government), it's a very temporary one," said Nkosi Mofala, president of the black Nationalist Azanian People's Organisation, which opposed continuous boycotts.

"Those grievances are definitely going to be approached from a much more matured anger, a much more conscious and deliberate anger," he said.

Two months after the start of a new academic year, there is an uneasy calm in black schools. Some of the soldiers and police who battled students in the streets and on high school grounds remain in black townships.

Classes proceed normally in some districts. In others, students go through the motions of learning and leave early in the day. Many speak of personal disillusionment, waste and frustration.

"Every year my friend would ask me what standard (grade) I was doing, and it was the same," said Lindy Mclu, 18, who returned to school in Soweto. She said she stayed away from most of the last two years "because I was afraid."

She said she saw a friend shot to death by black organisers en-

forcing a boycott, and that she escaped an attempt by soldiers to arrest every student at her school. Later, she said, "we just roamed the streets."

Miss Mclu, who hopes to be a lawyer, said some friends gave up on education: "One decided to leave school and do dressmaking. She wanted to be a doctor."

At their peak, the boycotts involved fewer than 300,000 of the 6.2 million black students in South Africa and its black homelands. But the protests rocked the system until hundreds of militant teen-agers were detained without charge under a state of emergency.

Attempts to introduce community-developed "people's education" courses as alternatives to the official syllabus were smothered under emergency regulations. The regulations made it illegal even to discuss such ideas. Finally, parents, clergy and leaders of adult organisations that had encouraged student protest — the United Democratic Front Alliance, the National Education Crisis Committee — said it was time to call it off.

Only a little violence persists. A crowd firebombed the home of a black school principal last Wednesday in Oberholzer west of Johannesburg. Students from rival political groups still have deadly fights every week or so in Soweto.

"Nothing has been accomplished," said Ann Rathebi of the South African Council of Churches. "At some schools, there is some type of education going on. At others, they just go and congregate. They are back at school, for what it's worth."

"Every right-thinking person would decry and lament the fact that a year or two has been lost and that obviously it has led to some of the students completely forgetting about going back to school at all," said Mofala, the president of the Azanian People's Organisation.

Judith Howerdon of Black Sash, a white women's aid agen-

cy, said, "The 'liberation' now, education later" call happened because the youth thought that change was around the corner.

"When the message came through that it was going to take a lot longer, school boycotts became counterproductive. The government would be delighted to have less educated blacks. The black community was doing the government's dirty work," she said.

After student uprisings spread from Soweto in 1976, a government commission called in 1980 for equal education for all races, a \$2-billion programme to close the gap between standards for white pupils and those for other races, and one education ministry for everyone.

It suggested that white schools with shrinking enrollments be allowed to admit some blacks.

But the government reaffirmed its policy of racially separate schools and education departments, while setting a goal of gradually achieving equal quality in education. The national budget

for black education was 28 times higher in 1985-86 than in 1972-73.

Statistics from the government and independent monitoring groups show that blacks still receive a fourth-best education among South Africa's racial groups, inferior to that provided for Asians and people of mixed race, as well as for whites.

Education is compulsory for only 3 per cent of black pupils, including those in the 10 tribal homelands. Free textbooks are supplied only in schools where attendance is compulsory. All whites must go to school and textbooks are free.

Including the homelands, there are 41 pupils for every black teacher, reflecting a steady improvement. The teacher-pupil ratio for whites has worsened slightly in recent years, to 19 to one. For pupils of mixed race it is 25 to one, and for Indians 23 to one.

For the past two years the black pass rate for high school graduation has been 52 per cent,

Irish election produces spectre of more instability

By Marcus Eliason
 The Associated Press

DUBLIN — He went to the polls offering strong leadership to tackle Ireland's economic ills, but Prime Minister-elect Charles Haughey failed to win the outright parliamentary majority he said was essential to do the job.

Some analysts forecast instability and another election, while others are hoping Haughey's vaunted political mastery will come to the rescue.

To complicate things further, the Northern Ireland issue emerged unexpectedly as a potential time bomb under the next government.

If there is any comfort for the Irish establishment, it is the poor showing of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army. Its result showed that whatever their problems, Irish voters don't think violence is the answer.

Last Tuesday's election that ousted Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald nine months before his term expired was not about Northern Ireland but the record 19.6 per cent unemployment, a per capita foreign debt three times that of Mexico and income tax and interest rates that are among Western Europe's highest.

With only 81 seats in the 166-seat Dail, or parliament, Haughey has the choice of buying the support of three or four independent lawmakers or going it alone as a minority government, on the assumption that the opposition parties would rather back him than go to another election.

The election, commented the Irish Times, left Haughey "arguably in the worst possible set of circumstances." The Irish Independent likened Haughey to a ship captain whose crew was too small for him to "steer wherever he wants to go."

Haughey can probably count on two of the independents, Jim Kemmy and Sean Treacy, to back him. But two others pose difficulties.

Left-winger Tony Gregory says he will demand expensive social welfare commitments which Haughey will find hard to satisfy in the present mood of fiscal austerity.

Neil Blaney is a "picky nationalist who is on record as saying he won't back Haughey unless he scraps the Anglo-Irish agreement."

That agreement, which Fitzgerald signed with Britain in 1985, gives Ireland for the first time a formal say in the affairs of Northern Ireland. But it also recognises British sovereignty over the province, which makes it anathema to hardliners like Blaney.

Haughey could find himself torn between alienating Blaney and being remembered as the prime minister who threw away the most significant concession



Charles Haughey

Dublin has extracted from London since Ireland won independence in 1921.

As Haughey spent the weekend resting at his island retreat, his spokesman announced that no deals at all would be sought. The independents "will not get as much as a phone call," said the spokesman, who requested anonymity.

This was vintage Haughey: when in doubt, attack.

The 61-year-old politician clearly was daring the opposition either to back him or face the outrage of an electorate which has gone through four elections since 1981 and is no mood for a fifth.

Fitzgerald has intimated that his Fine Gael party will back Haughey if he follows roughly the austerity policy of the outgoing government. Fine Gael's votes would enable Haughey to put a budget through parliament next month and probably see him safely through the year.

But from then on, it's guesswork. "It looks like a very short-term commitment," said political commentator John Cooney of the Irish Times.

Tim Pat Coogan, editor of the pro-Fianna Fail Irish Press, says: "We seem to have stumbled from one period of instability into another," but he is counting on Haughey's "brainpower and savvy" to get him through the next 18 months at least.

Almost ignored in all this was Sinn Fein, the outlawed IRA's legal wing, fighting its first election since it decided last November to abandon "abstentionism," its 65-year-old boycott of the Dail.

Sinn Fein's plunge into the mainstream netted only 32,933 votes, 1.8 per cent of the total and fewer than in previous elections.

The result could seriously weaken Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, who had pushed for the change. Ruairi O'Bradaigh, who led a walkout by hardliners in protest at last November's decision, said the result "indicates the people's withdrawal of support and loss of respect for those who abandoned a fundamental principle."

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LETTERS

Right of way

To the Editor:

I realise that a lot has been said about the road in front of the Jordan University and about the means to reduce the number of fatal accidents that frequently take place on it.

However, I had the pleasure of driving along that road yesterday afternoon — or should I say crawling at a snail's pace, since the speed limit has been set at 40 kph (very uncharacteristic of a road that size), and it was an eye-opening experience.

People, presumably University students, were sauntering had in hand on the tarmac and crossing the street at any point they took fancy to, in spite of the elevated walkways and the marked pedestrian crossings. They looked like they were walking down Lover's Lane! Now I can guarantee that, even at such slow speeds, accidents are still bound to happen since the cars' right-of-way is being raided by pedestrians at leisure.

In order to effectively eliminate the problem, people themselves should be properly educated to obey the rules of logic and reason aside from those of transportation and personal safety, just as we — the drivers — are forced to obey the speed limit rules.

David J. Khalaf
 Amman.

Christ — born in a manger, in Bethlehem, on Dec 25?

By Sandra Maler
Reuters

LONDON — The gardening correspondent of Britain's leading business daily the Financial Times has embroiled readers in a biblical row on whether Jesus Christ was born in a manger, in Bethlehem and on December 25.

The foray of Robin Lane Fox, your gardening columnist, into the rather rarified atmosphere of biblical criticism, has irritated more than a few of your readers, who rightly look to you for sound advice on all subjects and not merely in their chosen pursuit of Mammion," one reader wrote.

The controversy centred on an article by Lane Fox entitled "Midwinter? in a manger? in Bethlehem?" which argues that the traditional nativity story is a folkloric tale conflicting with historical evidence of time, place and circumstance.

"Either we keep King Herod and an open mind about the wise men and the massacre of the

innocents or we keep Quirinius, the census and the journey," he wrote.

There have been hundreds of replies. All from people objecting. I haven't had one letter of support," Lane Fox told Reuters.

"Britons are prepared to argue about anything. The idea that the English businessman sits at his desk cheating is not true at all," he said in an apparent light-hearted reference to a series of insider trading scandals rocking London.

"He is very intelligent and writes letters all day about his garden and the date of Christmas," he added.

Lane Fox himself does not just write about gardening. He is an erudite classical scholar who lectures in ancient history at Oxford University and is the author of a widely acclaimed biography of Alexander the Great.

According to Lane Fox, who bases his arguments on historian Emil Schuerer who wrote on the subject in the 1880s, the nativity

story as told in Luke's gospel was written some 30 years afterwards and is wrong.

The gospel recounts that Jesus was born in the reign of King Herod, when Quirinius was Roman governor of Syria and Caesar Augustus imposed a decree that all the world should be taxed, forcing Joseph and Mary to make a long trek to Bethlehem.

But Lane Fox says historians now know this is not true. He says Quirinius was Roman governor of Syria in A.D. 6 and "in A.D. 6, King Herod was no longer ruler. He had died in 4 B.C." But both are very much part of Christmas Quirinius because of the census and thereby the trip to Bethlehem and Herod because of the massacre of infants.

"If Herod was king, Joseph had no reason to be travelling to Bethlehem, so far from home, with a heavily pregnant wife. If Quirinius was governor, there was indeed a provincial census

but we can see that it, too, imposed no need for a Bethlehem journey," Lane Fox wrote.

Infuriated readers have written back, offering counter-arguments, complaints or re-statements of the gospels' views.

This fired Lane Fox to write a new article "arguments collide over Christmas," in which he set out to rebut his readers.

Lane Fox's critics, who include a well known Benedictine monk, Bernard Orchard, suggest either another Herod, another translation, or "unfortunately none of them neatly clears the ground," he wrote.

Lane Fox emphasised that he was not trying to debunk Christianity and said his attempts to set the record straight about the nativity in no way undermined the basis of the religion.

"Myself, I believe that Jesus was born at some point in the later reign of Herod the Great. We do not know when or where, but we do know it was not during a

"tax-registration" decreed by Augustus for "all the world" which sent Joseph trudging off to some supposed ancestral town."

Lane Fox said that Bethlehem as Joseph's ancestral town was important to the gospel to trace him to King David, keeping in line with prophecies that the Messiah would descend from David.

He said all the letters came from Christians and although Britons are not noted for their church-going, Lane Fox suggested that "Christmas is such an enormous industry, people don't like the idea of any changes."

"I suppose there are people who think that if something is said in the gospel is not plausible, then the whole gospel is challenged. But why should early Christians know every detail of Jesus' birth?" he added.

"It is a very well known thing by historians and Christian historians. The idea has been around for 150 years. What is amusing is all the efforts by churches trying

to pretend there isn't a problem," Lane Fox said.

"Charming scenes between angels and shepherds, stars and eastern wise men are only further legends which filled the gap in keeping with old traditions of narrative and the birth-stories of legendary great men," Lane Fox wrote.

Orchard disagreed: "To conclude then calling the whole Lukan birth narrative 'a charming fiction' is to reveal deep prejudice — surely a shocking state of affairs in a historian."

"I suggest that readers would prefer to see the same fairness in the presentation of biblical matters as you yourself apply to your dealings with the financial world," Orchard wrote to the newspaper.

"What emerges is that the early Christians did not know when Jesus was born. And why should they? How many followers of Martin Luther King know when he was born?" Lane Fox asked.

Turkish smoking habits changed by foreign imports

By Ragıp Erten
Reuters

ISTANBUL — Imported cigarettes have forced a change in Turkish smoking tastes away from the acrid oriental tobacco that has been a hallmark of the country.

The government lifted a ban on cigarette imports in 1984 under its economic liberalisation policy and is now examining applications to produce foreign brands.

Turkey imported over 7,000 tonnes of foreign cigarettes in 1986 at a cost of some \$72 million, up from 4,100 tonnes in 1985 and 2,700 tonnes in 1984, industry sources say.

Foreign cigarettes captured more than 10 per cent of the market last year, more than double the four per cent in 1985.

The country, with widespread smuggling and millions of its people working abroad, acquired a taste for foreign tobacco blends long before the import ban was lifted.

Turkey is a major producer of oriental-type tobacco, noted for its strong flavour. It produces some 170,000 to 180,000 tonnes a year of tobacco, a major export item.

Some tobaccos used in Western blended cigarettes are grown experimentally in Turkey but production is negligible.

Last year, the domestic cigarette production monopoly of the state Tekel organisation was abolished under legislation which also allowed private and overseas firms to produce foreign brands in Turkey.

Many consumers complained that cigarettes produced by Tekel did not match foreign brands in taste and quality.

"Although the world moved towards Virginia-type tobacco and blended cigarettes, Turkey did not change its policies. The quality of Turkish cigarettes deteriorated and smuggling increased," Altınur Kılıç, representative for manufacturer Rothmans International, told Reuters.

Critics said the new legislation would place Turkey's tobacco industry under the control of big manufacturers.

But Kılıç said the new law required that Tekel be a partner in any deal. "It will set the prices and distribute the cigarettes," he said. Tekel, however, will not be able to hold more than a 25 per cent stake in such ventures.

Leaking reactor raises key questions on future of Indian atomic power

By Brahma Chellaney
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — A crippled, leaking nuclear reactor in northwest India is posing a dilemma for the national government and a challenge to nuclear scientists.

How India retires, dismantles or entombs the potentially dangerous reactor is likely to be studied by scientists worldwide.

The 235-megawatt Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-1, built 14 years ago by Canada, is proving that it is easier to build an atomic reactor than to get rid of it. Some experts say scrapping the plant in the desert state of Rajasthan, known as RAPS-I, could cost more than the \$60 million it cost to build it.

There are more than 375 atomic power reactors in 26 countries, and several of them are to be retired in the next few years. The decision reached at RAPS-I and at plants in other countries now due to be dismantled could affect the course of nuclear power for years to come.

"We have found it not possible to solve the problem with the existing technology," said M.R. Srinivasan, chairman of India's Nuclear Power Board.

Indian scientists are grappling with such questions as whether the plant would best be entombed in concrete, how radioactive systems and wastes should be disposed of, and what environmental hazards are present.

RAPS-I is being retired ahead of its originally projected lifespan of 25 years because its end-shield, a key component of the cooling system, is cracked, brittle and leaking within the system.

The nickel-cadmium shield has been weakened by the battering of radiation over the years.

RAPS-I began operation in 1973 and has had repeated problems. Even before the end-shield leaks began, the facility suffered as many as 251 breakdowns for various causes. It has never released radiation into the atmosphere.

RAPS-I developed an internal leak in 1981 when water, a secondary coolant, seeped through the

end-shield. Attempts to plug the leak by treating it chemically did not work.

Engineers then tried specially fabricated seals to block the cracks in a three-year, \$100-million experiment.

But three months after the reactor began running again, it sprang new leaks in May 1985 and was shut down again.

After more repairs, the reactor was about to be put back into service last August when engineers found another crack resulting from the high heat used in the earlier mending.

It was then that a tired Srinivasan sent the matter to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet, which ultimately will decide the fate of the reactor.

RAPS-I is a CANDU (Canadian deuterium-uranium) prototype reactor built by Canada under a 1963 agreement with India. It uses natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator and primary coolant.

By contrast, the Soviet Chernobyl reactor that caught fire and exploded last year used enriched

uranium as fuel and graphite as moderator.

Indian officials have indirectly blamed RAPS-I's problems on Canada for selling an untested reactor model.

"The cause of the failure has been traced to deficiencies in fabrication procedures... and the use of material inherently susceptible to radiation embrittlement," the Department of Atomic Energy said.

In Canada, John MacPherson, a spokesman for Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., the state-owned company that makes CANDU reactors, told the Associated Press he could not comment on the Indian claims because Canadian experts have not inspected the situation at the Indian plants. He said India has not asked his company for help in dismantling Rajasthan-I because of Canada's current embargo on nuclear ties with New Delhi.

Canada imposed the embargo after Indian scientists, in 1974, exploded a nuclear device with potential military uses. As a result of the Canadian pullout, a

twin RAPS-II reactor in India was left half-complete.

At present, Indian scientists believe some form of entombment of RAPS-I in concrete is the only permanent solution. But there are other, short-term options:

— Replacing the defective end-shield. It would have to be cut by a remote-controlled robot not yet developed, but India is trying to develop one by 1990.

— Repairing the remaining crack in the end-shield and running the plant at half capacity. Srinivasan says this would take two years, with no guarantee the plan could generate electricity.

— Letting RAPS remain shut, without dismantling or entombing it. But since radioactivity takes tens of thousands of years to die, an earthquake or an enemy bomb attack on the plant could spell environmental disaster.

International experience in dismantling reactors is limited.

Nearly 50 reactors have been shut in the past 30 years, but most

are tiny. Canada's first full-scale nuclear power station, a 220 megawatt CANDU facility at Douglas Point on Lake Huron, was shut down in 1984 after 17 years' operation. Faults had been found in the reactor's containment system and the plant became uneconomical.

An experimental 250-megawatt reactor in Quebec province, Gentilly-1, was plagued by technical problems from the beginning and has also been decommissioned.

A major problem for India is how to dispose of RAPS-I's radioactive components and fuel elements. The world nuclear industry is still examining the best way to dispose of atomic wastes. Possible options include disposal deep underground, in the ocean or in Antarctica's ice sheets.

There also have been visions of disposal in space. This would involve shooting the wastes into the sun, "which is after all akin to a perennially operating fusion reactor," says Raja Ramanna, head of India's atomic programme.

While mass trial goes on, new generation of Mafia emerges

By Frances d'Emilio
The Associated Press

PALERMO — A year after the start of Italy's biggest Mafia trial, prosecutors fear they are losing the momentum in the fight against the centuries-old criminal society.

They say a new generation of mobsters is emerging in Italy, and that the new gangsters seem to have returned to old ways of making money — such as robbery and extortion.

Prosecutors cautioned against too much optimism when the trial of 474 Mafia suspects began Feb. 10, 1986. But the sight of some alleged bosses behind the bars of their courtroom holding cages boded the hopes of many Sicilians weary of the Mafia's grip on the island.

The trial bogged down last fall when the defence, in a delaying tactic, demanded the court read aloud thousands of pages of pre-trial interrogation and wiretapped telephone conversations.

Defence lawyers apparently hoped a delay would force the state to free the defendants. But parliament amended the law on preventative detentions to keep them in jail.

Meanwhile, prosecutors say they are trying to figure out the strategy of what they call the "new generation" of organised crime outside the courtroom. "It's a question that is making all of us uneasy," said prosecutor Vincenzo Geraci. "Will this 'calm' period continue or will the bloodshed begin again?"

Since the trial began, there has been a dramatic drop in gangland slayings in Palermo. Prosecutors say the alleged crime bosses don't want to darken their image in the eyes of the jury.

But state prosecutor Guido Sciacchitano says the Mafia, cut off from much of its drug income because of the anti-Mafia investigations, appears to have "returned to its, if you like, traditional," criminal ways of making money.

"There's been a notable resurgence of big robberies, large-scale extortion, and perhaps kidnappings that have reached worrisome levels," said Sciacchitano in an interview in his Palermo office.

His observations are reflected in Sicilian newspaper headlines: "Alarming escalation of extortion attacks. The reluctance of some victims makes the investigations very difficult."

The newspaper La Sicilia reported two attacks in three days in Messina, Sicily's chief seaport on the east. On the same page was an account about Gela, 150 kilometres to the southwest,

where two shops and a car were torched in a 48-hour period. Their owners apparently refused to pay "the lacc," the Mafia term for protection money.

Magistrates also express worry that the state war on the Mafia might be running out of steam. They point to legislation passed in early February that cuts back on the powers of investigating judges and prosecutors.

A year ago, prosecutors like Sciacchitano stressed that organised crime would never lose its hold unless the state fulfills its promises to develop the South economically and reduce its chronically high unemployment.

"The recruits for the hired killers come from the poor," said Geraci, who is from Palermo. "Without work there is no way to avoid being recruited. Despite the (politicians') promises, I don't see any serious efforts" to develop the South, he said.

Geraci, who now is assigned to Rome, recalled the Palermo area in 1982 "when there was a murder almost every day."

The killing of Gen. Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa was among those in Palermo blamed on the Mafia. He had been sent to Palermo to lead the state's war against the mob. The investigation of his murder and some 90 others led to the current trial.

Prosecutors believe the wave of murders in the late 1970s and early 1980s was part of a war among rival clans over the increasingly profitable heroin traffic to the United States.

But that drug traffic has been discouraged by the intense anti-Mafia investigations spurred by the killing of Dalla Chiesa, said Judge Guido Lo Forte.

An official of the U.S. drug enforcement administration, speaking on condition of anonymity, said in a recent interview that only about 10 per cent of the heroin going to the U.S. East Coast passes through Italy. He said about five years ago the figure was 30 per cent to 40 per cent.

Another source of Mafia income has been kickbacks from government contracts, especially in construction and city services in Palermo. But Palermo's 39-year-old maverick mayor, Leoluca Orlando, boldly announced that contracts would be awarded only after public bidding.

Since the current trial began, 18 of the more than 100 fugitive defendants have been captured. The most spectacular capture came shortly after the trial began. Michele Greco, whose nickname "The Pope" indicates the power he allegedly wielded in the Mafia, was taken in a pre-dawn raid on a farmhouse outside Palermo.



GRUESOME: This photo by Maggie Steber of the Reuters won the World Press Spot News prize. The picture shows two soldiers going after a small boy trying to steal a box of food from a warehouse in Cap-Haitien in Haiti just one week before the President-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled from the country July 2, 1986.

Cap-Haitien in Haiti just one week before the President-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled from the country July 2, 1986.

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Britain's Honeyghan destroys Bumphus to retain world title

LONDON (R) — Lloyd Honeyghan of Britain retained his world welterweight title with a furious display of power as he stopped American challenger Johnny Bumphus in the second round of their scheduled 15-round bout.

Honeyghan, making his first defence of the World Boxing Council (WBC) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) titles, overwhelmed the challenger, putting him down in the opening round and again in the next before American referee Sam Williams stopped the bout 55 seconds into the round.

The Jamaican-born Honeyghan fought like a man possessed Sunday night and the decision was marked by some controversy. He was penalised for rushing too quickly at Bumphus at the start of the second round, causing an uproar from the challenger's corner.

Bumphus was hardly off his stool when Honeyghan was upon him, throwing punches just after the bell started the round, and the American soon toppled to the canvas.

The referee then stopped the clock, pushed the champion away and penalised him one point for rushing the bell. But that brought only brief relief for Bumphus, who was overwhelmed from the start against Honeyghan's relentless two-fisted power.

Honeyghan, who shocked the boxing world when he defeated champion Donald Curry of the United States last September, proved himself and silenced sceptics who had questioned whether Curry had been at his best that night in Atlantic City.

"People thought I was a fluke but I showed them I'm for real," said Honeyghan after his 29th victory without a defeat.

"I was ready for war tonight. I was ready to eat the guy alive."

Of his fast start in round two, he said: "The hell had gone and I thought Bumphus was taking his time coming off his stool."

Although Bumphus was thoroughly beaten by Honeyghan, the challenger's camp expressed outrage at the decision.

"That was a disqualifiable offence," manager Lou Duva said. "I want to get a ruling. I want to get it straightened out."

The flamboyant 26-year-old champion, who entered the ring wearing a silver sequined robe over his matching trunks, wasted little time before establishing superiority.

At the opening bell he pounced

on Bumphus, shooting a swift right hook that set the tone for what was to follow.

Ignoring the height and reach advantage of the challenger, Honeyghan pounded away with both hands and continually pinned the lanky American against the ropes.

With about a minute left the champion landed a right cross to the challenger's jaw which dropped him to the canvas.

Bumphus, also 26, smiled from the floor but was clearly hurt and held on until the bell rang to save him.

He wobbled back to his corner but the end was near.

Honeyghan, who relinquished his World Boxing Association (WBA) crown rather than violate the WBC's anti-apartheid rules prohibiting bouts against South Africans, put on a devastating show in front of the beneficiary of that decision — Mark Breland.

WBA champion Breland, the U.S. Olympic gold medalist in 1984, was an invited guest at ringside coming off his title victory over Harold Volbrecht of South Africa.

Breland, who looms as a big-money opponent in the future for Honeyghan, was unmoved. "I was not impressed. Johnny looked weak tonight. I don't know why but Honeyghan didn't show anything to frighten me," he said.

He wobbled back to his corner but the end was near.

Fine performances highlight Europe's indoor track meet

LIEVIN, France (R) — Europe's athletes, buoyed by a world record and a clutch of eye-catching performances in their continental indoor championships, switch their focus to next month's inaugural World Indoor Championships in the United States.

Big Frenchman Bruno Marie-Rose provided the world record Sunday when he romped away with the 200 metres title in 20.36 seconds, 0.16 inside Italian Stefano Tilli's two year-old mark.

But there were other performances to relish, notably the long jump of Soviet European outdoor champion Robert Emmian, who leaped further indoors than anyone except American world and Olympic champion Carl Lewis.

Emmian's final jump of 8.49 metres added 15 centimetres to his own European indoor mark, which he had already equalled in the competition, and surpasses all bar Lewis, whose 8.79 world indoor mark dates back three years.

Polish sprinter Marian Woronin accounted for the other European record of the two-day meeting, slicing one hundredth of a second from his own 60 metres mark in the semifinals and final to take the title for the fifth time in

6.51 seconds.

Some leading contenders, notably Soviet world champion pole vaulter Sergei Bubka, missed the championships here to concentrate on the world summit in Indianapolis.

But others, such as East German long jumper Heike Drechsler and Bulgarian Yordanka Donkova and Stefka Kostadinova, who are the best in the world in their specialty events outdoors and indoors, each won comfortably here.

Drechsler's six long jumps were all better than anyone else's — the best 17 centimetres short of her world record 7.29 metres — and she would be a challenger for two world titles if she entered the 200 metres which she won in last year's European Outdoor Championships in world record equalling time.

Donkova was 0.05 seconds outside her 7.74 world mark for the 60 metres hurdles and Kostadinova took the high jump ahead of Soviet 1983 world champion Tamara Bykova, though her winning height of 1.97 metres was seven centimetres off her world mark.

Foster ties hurdle mark despite injury

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — After waiting out three false starts, American Greg Foster won the 60-metre hurdles, equalling the world indoor record time of 7.47 seconds at the San Diego invitational athletics meeting.

Foster finished 17 seconds ahead of France's Stephan Caristan and Tonia Campbell who set a new American record of 7.64. "I was sceptical about running this morning. My right foot was bothering me. I had to run as if there was no injury," said Foster after tying the record set by Canadian Mark McCoy in Tokyo last March.

Foster, who said he had less spring in his legs after three false starts delayed the race, bettered McCoy's record in Los Angeles last month when he clocked 7.36 seconds, but was denied the world mark when he was later judged to have false started.

China, S. Korea to meet in women's table tennis final

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Defending champion China and Asian Games medalist South Korea will compete for the women's team trophy in the 39th World Table Tennis Championships after overpowering their semi-final opponents in Monday's play.

The championship match is scheduled for today at Indira Gandhi Stadium.

China, the no. 1 seed in the tournament, beat Hungary 3-0 for the finals berth. Hungary, sixth ranked in the event, had upset the fifth-seeded Soviet team 3-0 on Sunday to get into the semifinals.

The third-seeded South Korean team humbled The Netherlands 3-0 for its finals berth. Holland, fourth-ranked, had upset no. 2 North Korea a day earlier.

The match between the Chinese and South Korean women's teams will be a replay of the Asian Games match last year. Then, South Korea triumphed.



MEDAL WINNERS: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Monday presents medals to the winners of a cross-country race for the handicapped sponsored by the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA) at Sunayyat Village on the outskirts of Amman. Fifty-two runners from the Nazek Hariri Special Education Centre, the YMWA and the Swedish Relief Organisation took part in the 500-metre race (Petra photo).

Becker defeats Edborg to win California tourney

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Boris Becker of West Germany defeated Stefan Edborg of Sweden 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 to win the \$435,000 Pilot Pen Classic at Grand Champions Resort.

The win was Becker's seventh straight over Edborg, who had a 15-match winning streak broken. Becker, who won \$59,000, now leads their head-to-head series 7-2. Edborg won \$29,750.

In the third set Sunday, both players held serve until the 11th game, when Becker broke Edborg at love. Becker served 10 aces in the match, which lasted just over two hours.

Becker broke Edborg to start the second set after going to deuce point five times before stroking a backhand past the charging Swede. Both players held serve through the rest of the set, in which Becker served five of his aces.

Becker also broke Edborg to start the match when the Swede double-faulted for break point. After holding serve, Becker broke him again before both

players held serve through the last six games.

Edborg was successful on more of his first serves than Becker, but Becker won the point on 80 per cent of his first serves compared to 63 per cent for Edborg.

"My return of service was better," Becker said. "Even though I had so many chances to break him, sometimes I was unlucky. I was always hitting the ball to his backhand, and I could read (which way he was leaning) by his motion."

"I was mentally better, and I was better on the big points, and that was the difference. I didn't feel the pressure in this tournament because I like it so much."

Edborg said he "never had a chance" to win because he didn't serve well and Becker was always ahead.

"He played better than me on all the shots," Edborg said. "He was very strong. He puts a lot of pressure on you because he goes for so many returns. I have a tough time playing him."

Amman Little League — Basketball

Feb. 20 matches

JUNIORS

Nahashbi 8
Lego 17

MIDS

Dorma 29
Jordan Lift 38
Furukawa 20
San Remo 29

SENIORS

Intercon 40
Signode 49
Jirpac 42

Near East 7
Mercedes Benz 15

Al Ahlyah 19
Jordan Express 18
Service Master 15
Istiklal 23

Cairo Amman 38
Squibb 18
Marriott 37

England's Short leads Iceland chess tourney

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — England's Nigel Short was in the lead with four points in an international chess tournament in Reykjavik after beating Iceland grandmaster Margeir Petursson in the fourth round of the 11-round contest.

Grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi, who defected from the Soviet Union in 1976 and now plays for Switzerland, and Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman were in joint second place Sunday with three points each.

In joint third place with two points each were Lajos Portisch of Hungary and two Soviet players, Lev Polugaevsky and Mikhail Tal.

Petursson, playing white, initially had the upper hand in his game with Short but the English grandmaster forged ahead in mid-

game and eventually forced his opponent to resign.

Other Icelandic grandmaster Fridrik Olafsson, an ex-president of the international chess federation FIDE who is also not playing in the current tournament, called Short a "chess prodigy."

Timman survived repeated attacks from Iceland's Jon L. Arnason. Analysts had predicted an easy win for the Icelandic but he lost the point when he ran out of time.

Korchnoi trounced Portisch while Yugoslav grandmaster Ljubomir Ljubojevic gained his first point by beating Iceland's Johann Hjartarson. Ljubojevic lost all of his first three rounds.

Iceland grandmaster Helgi Olafsson was offered an early draw by former world champion Tal.

European league roundup

Real Madrid pays heavily for victory

LONDON (R) — Real Madrid may have trimmed Barcelona's lead in the Spanish soccer league at the weekend but the bad news that accompanied its improvement may prove more significant in the long run.

Hugo Sanchez's sending off for two yellow-card offences — dissent and then handball — means he will miss the trip to Sabadell next weekend while his fellow striker Emilio Butragueno suffered an ankle injury which may keep him out of the European Cup quarter-final against Red Star Belgrade on March 4.

Before being dismissed Sanchez scored both goals in Real's 2-1 home win over Cadiz which left it three points behind Barcelona, held 0-0 away by Las Palmas.

Sanchez, who scored with left-foot free-kicks — one headed, the other chipped — has now collected 24 goals in 28 matches and has completed 100 league goals in Spain.

Gary Lineker is next best this

season with 14 goals. He never looked likely to add to this tally Sunday, finding it impossible to follow his four-goal act for England against Spain in mid-week.

Butragueno, who was having his ankle injury X-rayed again Sunday, was a victim of a combative Cadiz performance. The visitor also had a player sent off, Jesus Linares for a second bad foul, and five men booked.

Butragueno and skipper Jose Camacho, injured against England, will definitely miss the Spanish Cup quarter-final against Osasuna on Wednesday and are also in doubt for the Red Star match.

"Napoli is walking like a giant in a forest of miniature trees," said one newspaper after Napoli doubled its Italian League lead to four points with a 1-0 victory over Torino, its sixth away win of the season.

Captain Diego Maradona played down Napoli's chances of winning the league but Bruno Giordano, who played just nine mi-

nutes and scored Napoli's goal — the 100th of his career — was less cautious.

"The shield? Of course we can talk about it. I am not superstitious — but there are still some difficult matches to face."

Roma did Napoli a favour by beating second-placed Internazionale 1-0 with a goal by Danc Klaus Berggreen. Roma moved up one place to third, five points behind Napoli.

AC Milan striker Pietro Paolo Viridis is now the leading goalscorer. He netted the equaliser in the team's 1-1 draw against Juventus, taking his tally to 11. Hamburg broke clear of title rival and champion Bayern Munich after the longest winter break in West German First Division history.

Hamburg, ahead on goal difference at the start of the 77-day interval, went a point clear by beating Borussia Neochengladbach 3-1 on a frozen home pitch. Bayern was held 2-2 at Borussia Dortmund.

American NBA roundup

Lakers edge 76ers in OT

NEW YORK (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers wanted to make sure Earvin "Magic" Johnson did not beat them. He didn't.

But James Worthy and the Los Angeles Lakers did.

"We have more than one threat," Worthy said after making a running one-hander with three seconds left in overtime Sunday, giving the Lakers a 102-100 victory over Philadelphia.

"If I had drawn attention, I would have passed off," said Worthy, who scored 24 points.

"If Worthy is going to take a running one-hander, that's the kind of shot you would like him to take," Philadelphia coach Matt Guokas said.

The Lakers lead the NBA with a 41-13 mark. Their 19-10 road record is also the best in the league.

In other games, Chicago beat Cleveland 102-98; Indiana defeated Sacramento 103-101; Detroit downed New York 122-110 and Portland beat Milwaukee 124-120.

Trail Blazers 124, Bucks 120
Clyde Drexler scored 29 points

and Terry Porter's three-point play with 47 seconds left put Portland ahead for good against Milwaukee, ending the Bucks' seven-game winning streak.

Sidney Moncrief scored 19 points and Terry Cummings 17 for the Bucks.

Bulls 102, Cavaliers 98
Michael Jordan scored 43 points and Dave Corzine made a tiebreaking jump shot with 47 seconds remaining as Chicago sent Cleveland to its 14th straight road loss.

Ron Harper scored 22 points for the Cavaliers.

Pistons 122, Knicks 110
Isiah Thomas scored 26 points and helped Detroit hold off visiting New York.

Adrian Dantley added 24 points and Joe Dumars 23 for the Pistons, while Gerald Wilkins scored 32 and Patrick Ewing 29 for the Knicks.

Pacers 103, King 101
Wayman Tisdale scored 16 of his career-high 25 points in the second quarter and Indiana wiped out a 19-point deficit to beat visiting Sacramento.

Home of ancient Olympiad faces much work to host modern Games

By Costas Paris
Reuters

ATHENS — Greece, where the Olympic flame was first kindled, wants to stage the special centennial Games in 1996, but Greek sports officials fear the government may not be acting fast enough to achieve this.

Socialist government officials are confident of gradually finding the necessary money, but Olympic committee members say swift action is needed to make funds available soon and stage off opposition from Belgrade, Paris, Toronto and Istanbul.

Lambis Nikolau, president of the Greek Olympic Committee, said he welcomed recent government action in setting up three committees to prepare Greece's candidacy to host the Games, but warned that the country had to make all the necessary preparations in good time in order to improve its chances.

"Athens will have an advantage over other cities only if it is fully prepared with the necessary athletic installations," he told Reuters.

Last month Nikolau told reporters an initial sum of about a billion dollars was needed to get preparations under way. Additional funds would be required to build two Olympic villages, a new airport and an Athens subway system.

Another Greek Olympics offi-

cial, Nikos Filaretos of the International Olympic Committee, told reporters the committee would disregard Greece's historic link with the games if another country was fully ready by October 1990.

Meanwhile, plagued by a large current account deficit and huge foreign debts, Greece has entered its second year of a tough economic austerity programme which has curbed spending.

But the government is optimistic, and has already taken some preparatory steps. Last April a unanimous resolution in parliament established the legal mechanisms for the country to claim the Olympiad, and a candidature committee was formed with Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu as president.

Sports Undersecretary Sifis Valyrakis told Reuters that a well-studied budget, foreign expertise and advice and the constant support of the Greek people would prove enough in the remaining nine years for Greece to attract the Games.

"In due time the funds will be found to support Greece's candidacy and as a first step three committees were set up with state support of about \$2 million to make preparations. If we continue with the same enthusiasm, a good part of the works will be ready by 1990," he said.

He said some of the money would be raised through a special lottery and receipts from football pools.

Athens has an 80,000-seat Olympic Stadium where the World Youth Athletics Championships were held last summer, and a 20,000-seat indoor stadium which hosted the European Indoor Athletics Championships in 1985.

Valyrakis said these two facilities would provide the base from which work would expand, but there was no possibility of construction of the two Olympic villages beginning before 1990.

He said the effort to attract the Games was a national one in which he invited all his countrymen to take part — including about five million Greeks overseas, some of whom live in wealthy communities in the United States and Australia.

"It is not only the fact that ancient Greek philosophy gave birth to the Olympic idea. Olympism is part of our consciousness, our culture and our attitude today," he said.

The Olympic Games began in ancient Greece in 776 B.C. and took place at intervals of several years, with athletes from all parts of the country taking part.

Interrupted in 394 A.D., they were not revived until 1896 when the first modern Games were held in Athens at the initiative of a Frenchman, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

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Performances 3.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema Tel: 622198
SWORD OF HEAVEN
Indian
Performances 12.15, 3.00, 5.00, 9.30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| One sterling | 1.5365/5375 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.3300/3310 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.8270/8280 | West German marks |
| | 2.0642/0652 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.5450/5460 | Swiss francs |
| | 37.83/88 | Belgian francs |
| | 6.0840/0890 | French francs |
| | 1298.25/129525 | Italian lire |
| | 153.45/55 | Japanese yen |
| | 6.4903/4950 | Swedish crowns |
| | 6.9850/9900 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 6.8875/8925 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 402.90/403.40 | U.S. dollars |

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices slipped further across a broad front in late trading as Wall Street opened sharply lower and hovered at the lows in subsequent dealings.

By 1649 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 24.9 points from Friday's record closing high to 1,936.6, while the FT 30 index at 1650 GMT was down 12.7 to 1,554.3 after a record on Friday.

But dealers said the market has been bracing itself for a correction to the record highs for some time, adding they were not convinced the new year rally is running out of steam. They said the prospect of tax cuts in the March budget and chances of a cut in U.K. interest rates were underpinning prices.

Equity investors were unimpressed by the weekend agreement by the G-5 nations to seek currency stabilisation, while government bonds were steady as participants assessed the implications of the agreement.

Neither shares nor gilts benefitted from the surge in sterling on the foreign exchanges with the pound's trade weighted index closing 0.6 points higher at 69.7.

ICI was isolated among the leaders, showing a small gain of 2p to 1,397, as U.S. investors joined the market to pick up the shares ahead of annual results Thursday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Morocco gets \$50m credit to buy oil

RABAT (R) — A consortium of foreign banks has opened a line of credit totaling \$50 million to finance Moroccan imports of crude oil during the current year, the Societe Cherifienne des Petroles (SCP) said last week. The state agency said in a statement the credit was granted under an accord signed in Marrakech with the consortium which includes Arab, French, Spanish and Swiss Banks, led by Al Sandi Bank of Paris. The statement said "the advantageous conditions of the finance reflect the credibility enjoyed by Morocco." It gave no details of the terms or duration of the credit.

World shipbuilding orders decline

LONDON (R) — The number of merchant ships on order from the world's shipyards was lower at the end of 1986 than it was three months earlier, Lloyd's Register of Shipping said last week. The tonnage on order books at the end of December declined to 21.36 million gross tons comprising 2,168 vessels, from 23.41 million consisting of 2,249 vessels at the end of September, the authoritative trade publication said in its latest statistics. Lloyd's said more than 91 per cent of the orders were scheduled for delivery by the end of next year. Japanese yards headed the order totals at the end of December with 6.57 million gross tons (333 vessels) followed by South Korea with 4.22 million tons (112 vessels).

Vietnam to raise oil production

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam said Sunday it would raise crude-oil production to about 280,000 tonnes this year from 40,000 tonnes in 1986. Voice of Vietnam Radio, monitored here, said the seven-fold increase was agreed during a recent meeting of the Vietnam-Soviet oil joint venture in the Vung Tan-Con Dao area, about 100 kilometres south of Ho Chi Minh City. It said Vietnamese and Soviet officials adopted measures to boost oil extraction from the southern Vietnamese continental shelf and reviewed plans for construction of offshore and inland oil production facilities. The joint venture currently produces oil from five offshore wells east of Vung Tau. Vietnam depends on Moscow for almost all of its oil.

Chase Manhattan pulls out from Liberia

MONROVIA (R) — Chase Manhattan, one of the leading banking institutions in Liberia, is to close down its three branches in the country, Mr. John Bestman, governor of the National Bank of Liberia, said last week. Mr. Bestman told Reuters he had received a letter from the Chase Manhattan management in the United States informing him of the decision. He said the closure was the result of a decision by Chase Manhattan to concentrate more on corporate banking. It does not mean loss of confidence in the Liberian economy," Mr. Bestman said, adding that other African countries would also be affected. Chase Manhattan had been operating in Liberia since 1961. Mr. Bestman said he did not know yet who would take over from Chase but that during the interim period the National Bank of Liberia would safeguard the interests of depositors.

Nigeria discovers commercial gold deposits

LAGOS (R) — Gold deposits in commercial quantities have been discovered in three Nigerian states, the Nigerian Mining Corporation (NMC) has announced. Exploration of one of the deposits, in western Oyo state, would begin this year. Other quantities had been found in two northern states, Sokoto and Niger, the corporation's general manager, Mr. Davon Pwajok, told the News Agency of Nigeria. He gave no indication of the estimated size of the deposits. Mr. Pwajok was optimistic about mineral production in Nigeria since the effective 60 per cent devaluation of the naira currency last September that has sent prices of imported raw materials soaring. Demand for kaolin was now so great that the NMC could hardly cope and the corporation hoped to introduce local feldspar, diatomite, bentonite and barytes into the market, he said.

Norway's N. Sea oil output hits record high

OSLO (R) — Norway's North Sea oil output rose to 1.06 million barrels per day (b/d) in January from 1.049 million b/d in December, its highest level since production began 16 years ago, operators said last week. The total is expected to fall this month as Norway implements a voluntary 7.5-per-cent output cutback on all its fields in support of OPEC-led measures to boost oil prices by curbing supply to world crude markets. Norway, Western Europe's second biggest oil producer after Britain, is not a member of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Dubai cuts oil output by 10%

ABU DHABI (R) — The emirate of Dubai confirmed Monday it had cut its oil production by 10 per cent as part of new Gulf Arab efforts to keep oil prices at \$18 a barrel.

Oil ministers from six Gulf states agreed Sunday night to help each other to sell oil in the face of stiff buyer resistance to official prices of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

But the announcements failed to impress the spot, or free, market where prices have fallen well below official OPEC levels. Traders said the market Monday was stable at Friday's prices.

Four of the states at Sunday's meeting — Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — belong to OPEC and produce nearly 40 per cent of its output.

The official Emirates News Agency WAM quoted a Dubai oil source as saying the emirate, the UAE's second largest producer, had cut its output by 10 per cent to help to maintain market stability and would consider further cuts if needed.

Syria plans to boost oil production

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Syria plans to boost its oil production of light, low-sulfur crude from 60,000 barrels to 100,000 barrels a day from two new fields next year, the Middle East Economy Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The authoritative Nicosia-based weekly said the planned expansion will come from the Al Ward and Al Asharah fields 65 kilometres southeast of the Tayyim field that began production last autumn.

Tayyim in northeast Syria is linked to the Syria-Iraq pipeline, cut off by the Syrians several years ago, by a 30 centimetres spur line. The Tayyim output is pumped to the refinery at Homs, 160 kilometres north of Damascus.

The Syrian government has received bid for the \$60 million contract for production installations and a new spur line from three groups, Mannesman of West Germany, Brown and Root of the United States and a consortium of Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Czechoslovakia's Technoexport, the weekly reported.

Syria's oil production from Tayyim and other fields totals around 210,000 barrels a day, most of it low-grade crude.

The production boost would help Syria combat a major economic crisis.

The Damascus government currently gets six million tons of cut-price oil from Iran a year.

Syria is Persian Iran's main ally in the 6-year-old Gulf war against Arab Iraq. But Damascus has come under growing pressure from other Arab countries to stop supporting Iran against a fellow Arab nation.

sell the unsold crude on its behalf.

Industry sources said this appeared to be a show of support for Qatar in the face of pressure for price cuts from its Japanese buyers.

If implemented, the agreement would authorise other GCC states to sell Qatari crude through their own marketing channels, they said.

But one trader said this would not be easy. "If the market price is way below the official price, nobody will assist any government to market these crudes," he said.

The meeting's outcome disappointed traders looking for a clear statement of intent that fresh output cuts would be made if they were needed to preserve the \$18 price. One described the result as "neutral to bearish."

UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteibi said he saw no need for calling an emergency meeting of OPEC which might consider new cuts.

Industry sources played down the impact of Dubai's cut, saying it had already been widely reported in industry circles last

week and amounted to no more than 40,000 b/d.

They said Dubai was producing around 390,000 b/d earlier this month and the reduction would bring its output in line with last year's average of 350,000 b/d.

The UAE would still be producing at least 250,000 b/d above its 902,000 b/d quota, they said. Abu Dhabi, the largest emirate, is now pumping about 800,000 b/d.

Crude prices were stable or lower on world markets Monday, with the British Brent grade falling 15 cents from Friday's levels of \$17.25/35 a barrel for March delivery.

Dubai, often viewed as a Middle East benchmark, was assessed in Tokyo at \$16.85/17.00 a barrel compared to its official OPEC price of \$17.42.

The sources said Dubai had traditionally shunned official OPEC prices and noted that the WAM announcement did not commit the emirate to charging them.

The ministers in Doha said they were satisfied that Dubai had agreed to cut production and "restrict itself to the price set for its oil."

Currency markets show caution

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — The dollar was barely changed in value Monday from Friday as currency markets reacted with scepticism but caution to the weekend Paris accord by leading industrial nations to stabilise exchange rates.

Many dealers believe the Paris agreement Sunday by the United States, Japan, West Germany, France and Britain — the group of five — plus Canada included a secret clause setting exchange rate ranges to be defended.

If so, central banks would intervene in markets to defend these unpublished levels when currencies fluctuate too far, "burning" speculators by causing sudden changes in currency directions.

Traders will therefore be careful in coming days, pushing the dollar to the limits of a range between 1.80 and 1.85 West German marks in which it has traded in the last two weeks, to see whether and at what point the central banks step in.

And with pessimism about the U.S. economy still prevalent, that push is likely to be in a downward direction first.

But dealers said the dollar could hold steady for a few days, while the market assesses the agreement and explanatory statements by officials and waits for new U.S. trade figures.

S. Korea decides to repay loans ahead of schedule

SEOUL (AP) — The state-run Korea Exchange Bank has decided to pay back a foreign bank loan of \$650 million in full on April 13, nearly five years ahead of schedule, officials said last week.

They said this would be the first in a series of repayments planned by Korean banks of about \$3 billion in foreign bank loans this year under the government's policy of reducing the country's overall foreign debt from the present \$44.5 billion to less than \$40 billion.

The Pohang Iron and Steel Co. and Korea Electric Power Corp., both state-run, and some private enterprises also have been reported to be planning early repayment of foreign loans carrying high interest rates.

Korea Exchange Bank officials said the bank's decision already had been reported to the Bank of Tokyo and the B.A. Asia Ltd., in Hong Kong, two lead managers of this syndicated loan involving

dozens of foreign banks.

The original contract calls for the loan, which was obtained in 1984, to be repaid over four years starting in 1988 at the London inter bank offered rate plus 0.75 percentage points on \$390 million and at the U.S. prime rate plus 0.2 percentage points on the remaining \$260 million.

Funds needed for the proposed repayment will come from the Bank of Korea's foreign exchange holdings, now estimated at \$8 billion, the Korea Exchange Bank officials said.

They said the repayment of the \$650 million loan would save the Korea Exchange Bank about \$150 million in interest costs.

The government's plans for early repayment of foreign loans have been prompted by Korea's sizable current account surpluses, which amounted to nearly \$5 billion last year. The government expects a surplus of \$7 billion this year because of its strong exports.

The dollar was fixed in Frankfurt Monday at 1.8279 marks, down from 1.8313 on Friday before the Paris talks. In a first reaction it hit 1.85 marks in Sydney early Monday, but soon eased. It closed in Tokyo at 153.55 yen after 153.77 on Friday.

A bland Paris communiqué made no mention of how far the dollar might have to fall before any intervention. But remarks by officials such as Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson made clear the six had agreed to intervene.

Japan's Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday they agreed detailed measures to stabilise currencies but did not reveal them to make them more effective.

Mr. John Cox, executive director of EBC Amro Bank Ltd in London, said the agreement on renewed central bank intervention to support the dollar "has taken the sting right out of the market."

He forecast that the dollar would "bob around 1.80-1.85 marks" for much of this week.

But the agreement had failed to alter the underlying trend for the dollar. "The tendency for the dollar is still down because of the enormous trade imbalance," he said.

The U.S. trade deficit reached \$170 billion last year. Japan had a surplus of \$83 billion and West Germany of \$62 billion.

Mr. David Crocker, senior analyst at Chemical Bank in London, said any new U.S. economic figures mean more dollar selling.

"The market's not going to do anything today ... it needs a piece of concrete news to go for," he said.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 24, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It's one of those unusually good days when you can bring yourself and your abilities to the attention of the outside world. Seek out those of influence for support.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Stop wishing and bring out your finest talents through which you can accomplish a great deal now.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact those who have the information or articles that you want and get them with ease.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study those practical affairs that mean so much to your mate. Be inspired and work into the night.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You know how to gain the cooperation of employees for the projects you have in mind.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Now that you are caught up with your work you can get your surroundings improved considerably.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan how to get more pleasure from the amusements you regularly indulge in. The evening makes you happy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It's a good day to invite admirers into your home who can be of great assistance to you in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you show allies how much they mean to you, you can gain more cooperation now. Drive carefully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be more sure of what to do to add to the present abundance at this time. Follow advice from bigwigs.

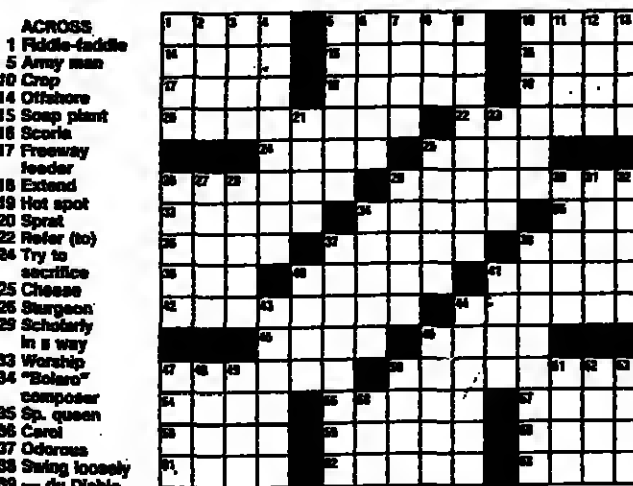
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Improve your appearance and make a better impression on others. They can do big favors for you now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Forget the social for now and get down to serious business. Do something thoughtful for your mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get in touch with your staunchest friend and gain the assistance you need to gain your personal wishes.

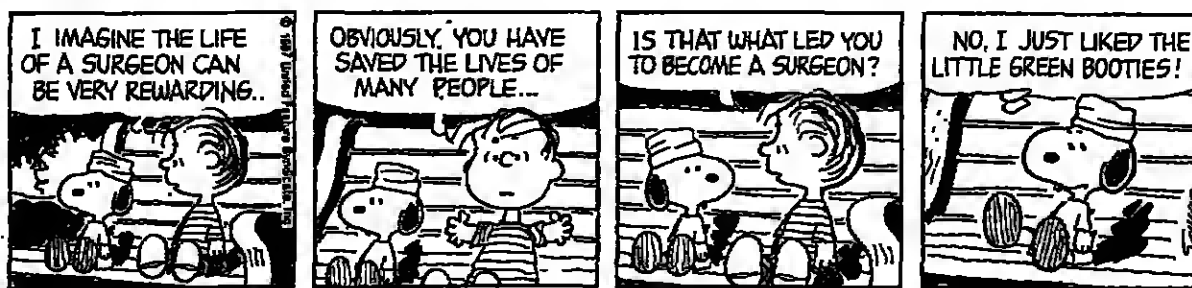
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... be or she will be one of those delightful young persons who can plan virtually anything of a practical gear, so teach this one to smile more when dealing with other persons and your progeny will be a true winner. The charm here will be part of this child's great success.

THE Daily Crossword by John Chislen



- ACROSS
- 1 Fiddle-faddle
 - 5 Army man
 - 10 Crop
 - 14 Ostrich
 - 15 Soap plant
 - 18 Score
 - 17 Freeway
 - 19 Extant
 - 20 Hot spot
 - 21 Spiral
 - 22 Healer (to)
 - 24 Try to sacrifice
 - 25 Cheese
 - 26 Surgeon
 - 29 Scholarly
 - 30 In a way
 - 33 Wrench
 - 34 "Solers"
 - 35 Computer
 - 36 Sp. queen
 - 37 Camel
 - 38 Odorous
 - 39 Sting loosely
 - 40 On dialle
 - 41 Grand a.g.
 - 42 Mythical dog
 - 43 Rabbit ear
 - 45 Cry
 - 47 Usher in
 - 49 Camp
 - 51 Eng. river
 - 55 Mustache
 - 57 Central line
 - 58 "Are looms, - breaks"
 - 59 Dump
 - 60 Bank deal
 - 61 Building
 - 62 Campsite
 - 63 A Gardner
- DOWN
- 1 Singing
 - 2 Musical
 - 3 "Tough"
 - 4 Royal Gar.
 - 5 Deck
 - 6 Catin
 - 7 Novelist
 - 8 Huzzah!
 - 9 Ome money
 - 10 Spite
 - 11 Talk wildly
 - 12 Affirm
 - 13 Desire
 - 21 Shed
 - 23 Use a phone
 - 25 Br. labor
 - 27 Essential
 - 28 Official
 - 29 Harriet
 - 30 Hands
 - 31 Memorandum
 - 32 Vicious
 - 34 Accelerate
 - 37 Malware
 - 38 Store event
 - 40 Stagger
 - 41 Bridge bid
 - 43 Masters
 - 44 In Alt.
 - 45 Remove by
 - 46 Eaten away
 - 47 Own
 - 48 Perilous
 - 49 Muslim weight
 - 50 Foster or
 - 51 Roman spouse
 - 52 Iron money
 - 53 Slave of old
 - 56 In addition

Peanuts



Mutt n' Jeff



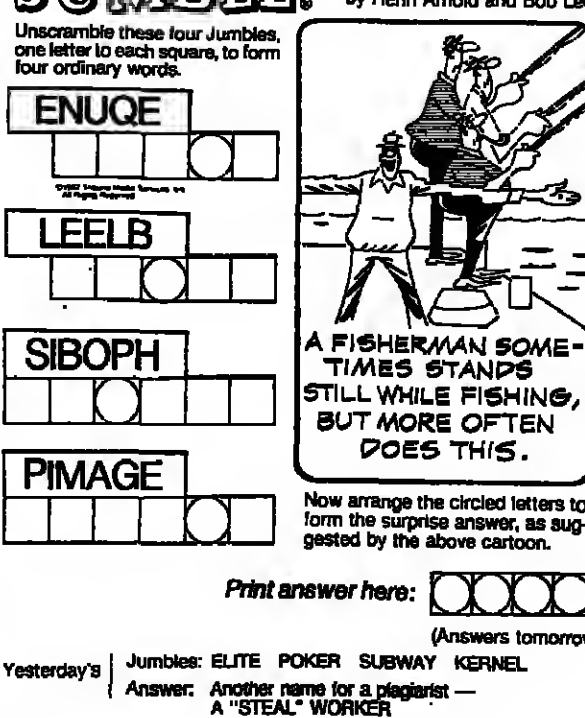
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Filipino soldier killed in rebel raid on police station

Festivities marking Marcos' ouster continues

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Communist rebels killed one soldier in a raid on a provincial police station and troops went on alert in Manila to prevent attacks during celebrations marking the first anniversary of ex-President Ferdinand Marcos' ouster, the military said Monday.

The Philippine Constabulary said the rebels struck Sunday afternoon at a police station in Sorsogon province in Luzon's Bicol region, 400 kilometres south east of Manila.

Three troopers were wounded in the raid, and the rebels made off with M-16 rifles, handguns and ammunition, the report said. An unofficial count shows that at least 83 people have been killed in clashes between rebel and government forces since a 60-day ceasefire in the 18-year-old rebel insurgency expired on Feb. 5.

In Manila, Maj.-Gen. Eduardo Ermita, the vice chief of staff, told reporters the military had been alert since Sunday because of reports that Communist rebels and Marcos sympathisers would try to disrupt the celebrations.

The celebrations will culminate Wednesday, the anniversary of Marcos' flight to exile in Hawaii after 20 years in power.

"We always take things seriously," Gen. Ermita said. "We can't leave anything to chance. Every time there are such reports, whether they are true or not, it is better for us to be prepared."

Most Manila newspapers have reported plots to disrupt the celebrations. However, senior military officers have refused to confirm the reports publicly.

But a military source, speaking on condition he not be named, said armed forces intelligence had uncovered a plot by Marcos sympathisers, including two officers

to me as an American."

Joining Emily Jolson of New York in her meeting with Mrs. Aquino were Peter Yarrow, Paul Stoker and Mary Tavers — the folk-singing group "Peter, Paul and Mary." They are to perform with Filipino musicians in the celebrations.

Festivities began Sunday with a display of military equipment at Camp Aguinaldo, centre of the Enrile-Ramos revolt, and a mass at the graves of five rebel soldiers killed in the mutiny.

During the mass, Mr. Enrile said the spirit of the "people power" revolt should be rekindled in the interest of national unity. Despite his leading role in the mutiny that brought Mrs. Aquino to power, Mr. Enrile was sacked nine months later after officers linked to him allegedly launched a coup attempt that was blocked by Gen. Ramos.

"It was nice of those of us to gather together here, no longer as combatants, but as brothers and friends," Mr. Enrile said. "Those of us who participated directly and actively in that event know only too well the risks, the doubts, the uncertainties and the price that we were to pay for what we were doing at that time."

Manila seeks talks with NPA rebels

Philippine government peace negotiators Monday sought help from senior figures within the country's powerful Roman Catholic Church in a bid for a lasting truce with Communist rebels.

The officials met a delegation of Catholic bishops from across the Philippines to discuss plans for opening regional talks with the rebels.

Zia returns from visit to India

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq returned from his "cricket for peace" mission to India Monday, saying he had proposed an accord renouncing support for separatist campaigns in the two neighbouring countries.

He told a news conference he had made the proposal to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Gen. Zia did not describe Mr. Gandhi's immediate reaction, but he said he expected a positive response.

India accuses Pakistan of helping Sikh militants to wage a violent campaign for a separate "Khalistan" homeland in Punjab state, and charges have often been made here that New Delhi backs campaigns for separate "Pashtunistan" and "Sindhudesh" homelands in Pakistan's North West Frontier and Sind provinces. Both sides deny each other's charges.

Gen. Zia, who arrived from the western Indian city of Jaipur, where he watched a cricket match between India and Pakistan Sunday, said Pakistan would have no hesitation in declaring that "what is happening in India has nothing to do with Pakistan" and that the Sikh problem was India's internal affair.

He said similarly he would like New Delhi to say in the proposed accord that "what is happening in Pakistan is Pakistan's internal affair and India has nothing to do with Pashtunistan and Sindhudesh."

Gen. Zia said a "package" declaration by the two traditional rival nations renouncing any support for separatist campaigns in the other would give them strength.

He said his visit to India, which he called private and informal, had made headway in improving relations.

Gen. Zia arrived in New Delhi on Saturday and had talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi only a few days after the two nations pulled back 150,000 troops from battle positions along their border.

Gen. Zia, whose country has fought three wars with India, was invited to Jaipur by Indian cricket officials.

The latest confrontation, the most dangerous since the last Indo-Pakistani war in 1971, was triggered in November when India began winter manoeuvres called "Operation Brass Tacks" along the border. Islamabad responded by moving up troops.

Both sides agreed on a first pull-back after five days of emergency talks in New Delhi, which ended on Feb. 4.

Asked about the border tension, Gen. Zia said: "The main thing is that we have been able to solve it and it should not happen again."

The government-run All India Radio said Sunday that Gen. Zia and Mr. Gandhi, who dined together in New Delhi on Saturday night, discussed the frontier tensions as well as such cross-border issues as smuggling, drug trafficking and infiltration of extremists into Punjab.

Delhi vows to crack down on Sikh violence

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government promised Monday to crack down on Sikh extremist violence in Punjab as thousands of Hindus angered by the killing converged on parliament demanding that Mr. Gandhi should "govern or quit."

Tens of thousands of right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demonstrators marched on parliament where President Zail Singh opened the 1987 session with a promise of tough action against extremists fighting for an independent Sikh homeland in the north Indian state.

Mr. Singh, whose speech to both houses of parliament was written by Mr. Gandhi's government, said New Delhi would not allow extremists to use Sikh priests and religious institutions to topple Punjab's moderate Sikh government.

But near the circular parliament building demonstrators waving saffron and green BJP flags shouted slogans. They accused Mr. Gandhi of doing nothing to stop the extremists, who have massacred Hindus in Sikh-majority Punjab in an attempt to provoke inter-communal violence.

A truck flanked by police in riot gear carried a huge placard reading: "Dead bodies in Punjab. Where has the government of Rajiv Gandhi gone? Innocent people are being hounded by state-sponsored terrorism."

Mr. Gandhi has sent thousands of paramilitary police reinforcements to Punjab to try to stop the violence which claimed more than 650 lives last year and more

than 100 so far this year. The noisy but peaceful demonstration brought traffic to a halt and many markets closed in response to a BJP protest strike call.

The demonstrators had been pouring into the capital from all over India since late last week. Mr. Gandhi's critics have accused him of failing to check the violence and of ignoring the political reasons behind it.

Mr. Gandhi has not implemented a July 1985 accord with moderate Sikhs designed to isolate the extremists. This would have granted moderate demands for greater autonomy for Punjab's 12 million Sikhs.

The failure has eroded Sikh support for Punjab's moderate Sikh Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, who survives only with backing from Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in the state.

In his address to parliament Mr. Singh pledged support for Mr. Barnala, who is fighting the five Sikh high priests trying to unseat him.

The priests excommunicated Mr. Barnala this month but they have so far failed to entice more than a handful of his badly factionalised Akali Dal Party to defect to their newly formed unified Akali Dal Party.

Mr. Singh said Mr. Barnala had stood up to the "blatantly unconstitutional effort to subvert the democratic process through a sinister exploitation of religious sentiments."

"Government will not allow the enemies of India's unity and integrity to abuse and misuse religion," Mr. Singh, himself a Sikh, said.

8 bombs explode in Lima

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Eight bombs apparently planted by leftist guerrillas exploded in and around this capital, causing damages but no injuries, police and newspapers have said.

One of the explosions occurred a block from the presidential palace, where President Alan

Garcia was meeting with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo.

News reports said police linked the Lima explosions, which came during a partial lockdown, to the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, a pro-Cuban rebel group that has operated in Lima for about two years.

U.S. navy 'improperly used' \$10m due Canada, Turkey

WASHINGTON (AP) — Military auditors have confirmed irregularities involving navy's handling of two foreign arms sales, concluding Turkey and Canada should get refund totalling at least \$10 million, an official says.

Defence Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger was advised of the findings earlier this month, said Steve Trodden, the Pentagon's assistant inspector general for auditing. He said the navy has begun a new investigation of the affair.

Trodden said the navy is modifying the contracts, and that the changes will lower the costs of torpedoes bought by Canada and Turkey by at least \$10 million.

The allegations of navy mishandling of the foreign contracts surfaced last October. The navy has refused to discuss the matter, citing investigations still under way.

The navy has also tried to keep

a low profile on the matter because of the international implications. Canada and Turkey are allies within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. NATO countries rely on the Pentagon to oversee hundreds of purchases from American manufacturers every year.

In an interview Friday, Mr. Trodden disclosed that a basic audit of the case had been completed.

"The navy has confirmed the irregularities and is negotiating with Honeywell to make a contractual adjustment. We have also raised the issue of how... did this happen in the first place."

The case involves a 1985 deal consolidating requests by Canada and Turkey to purchase 268 MK-46 torpedoes from Honeywell Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

India, Sweden to join satellite rescue system

QUEBEC (AP) — India and Sweden have agreed to link up with an international satellite-aided search and rescue tracking system that is credited with saving hundreds of lives in the last five years, system officials say.

Brazil is negotiating its participation and several other countries have expressed interest in the system that uses satellites to rapidly locate aviators and mariners in distress, the officials said.

"We've had a lot of success," Lt.-Col. Jim Robinson, project manager for Canada, said in an interview after a two-week closed conference of members which ended Friday in Quebec City.

The search and rescue satellite-aided tracking system and an equivalent Soviet system have saved an estimated 745 lives since

Canada, the United States, France and the Soviet Union launched the first satellite in 1982.

"A large number of those would have perished without the satellite system," said Jim Bailey of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who headed the American delegation.

The satellite system can usually cut hours and sometimes days of search time, which often means the difference between life and death, said Col. Robinson.

The speedier searches also trim the high cost of rescue operations, he added.

However, it can cost a country up to \$3 million to link up with the system, Col. Robinson said. Venezuela, Chile, Argentina,

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand have expressed interest in linking up, said Bailey.

Great Britain, Finland, Norway, Bulgaria and Denmark are already hooked up.

When there is an accident, emergency radio beacons on ships or aircraft using designated frequencies are activated manually or automatically.

Five satellites sent up by the Soviet Union and the United States pick up the transmissions and relay the signals to ground stations called local user terminals.

The origin of the distress call is calculated there to within 30 kilometres and the ground station relays the information to a mission control centre.

Ershad: Opposition arming students

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad has hit back at opponents calling for his resignation, saying they are inciting politics of vandalism and supplying arms to students.

"Politicians have been using the students to achieve their selfish ends. They even do not hesitate to arm students with deadly weapons, which results in killings of innocent people," he said Sunday.

Gen. Ershad was talking to villagers at Munshiganj, 25 kilometres from Dhaka, gathered at the graveside of railway guard tofazzal Hossain who was killed by joy-riding students last week.

"Some (political) elements have made it a fashion to blame the government for such violent incidents," Gen. Ershad said and warned that he would no longer tolerate "vandalism for politics or

any other sake."

Hossain was hacked to death and four of his colleagues were badly beaten after they challenged a group of students travelling without tickets in a first-class train compartment last week, which triggered a two-day countryside railway strike.

Police arrested five suspected killers from the Bangladesh Agriculture University at northern town of Mymensingh.

Their friends Sunday ransacked the office of the university's vice-chancellor and forced him and other teachers to join a demonstration demanding their release, university officials said Monday.

Political analysts said Gen. Ershad might use Hossain's death as a pretext to implement his controversial plan to ban student politics.

Meanwhile, at least nine Mus-

lims settlers were killed and 10 injured when separatist tribal guerrillas attacked a village in southern Bangladesh Sunday, officials said.

They said nearly 100 rebels from the outlawed Shanti Bahini (peace force) crossed into the Chittagong Hill Tracts from the eastern Indian state of Tripura during the night and attacked sleeping villagers with automatic weapons.

The guerrillas' latest raid came only two days after they shot six people in a hill tracts forest.

Bangladesh recently imposed an indefinite night curfew along its border with Tripura in an attempt to contain the guerrillas, local officials told reporters.

Bangladesh accuses India of helping the rebels and says 24,000 Bangladeshi tribespeople have fled to Tripura since May to escape the fighting.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Soviets to honour Boris Pasternak

MOSCOW (AP) — The epic novel "Doctor Zhivago" will appear for the first time in a Soviet edition next year, ending a ban of more than 30 years long on the work of the Russian writer Boris Pasternak, said plans called for the masterpiece to be published in installments in the literary monthly Novy Mir beginning next January. "We are now righting a tragic error with regard to a most honest writer, a man who never in his life would have thought that he could become the object of political speculation," Yevtushenko said in a recent interview. Millions of people abroad have been touched by Zhivago, which recounts the doomed love of a Russian doctor for the beautiful Lara during the tragic years of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and the Russian civil war. The work, which earned Pasternak the 1958 Nobel Prize for literature, contains a political theme as well, accusing the Communist system of having corrupted the age-old Russian way of life. The book's publication abroad exposed Pasternak to political denunciation, an ordeal that may have hastened his death in 1960.

East Germany holds forum on AIDS

BERLIN (AP) — East Germany has held its first public forum on AIDS, with more than 1,000 people crowding into a state clinic lecture hall to get advice on the deadly illness. This month, East Germany reported its first known death from acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS. Nils Soemnicksen, an expert on skin cancer ailments associated with AIDS, said 18 East Germans so far tested positive for the virus, which robs the body of its disease-fighting abilities. "But the estimated number of unreported cases is probably much higher than this," Soemnicksen told the forum, which was announced in advance by East Berlin municipal authorities. Soemnicksen said about 100,000 East Germans underwent tests for the AIDS virus since testing began July 1, 1986. East Germany's population is 17 million. Soemnicksen and four immunologists called for increased public discussion on AIDS, including programmes on state television, to help battle the disease in East Germany. In West Germany, federal health officials estimate 30,000 to 100,000 people are carrying the AIDS virus. At last report, 416 people in West Germany had died in 907 known cases of the disease. AIDS is transmitted through sexual contact, blood transfusions, the contaminated needles of drug addicts, or from a virus-carrying mother to her child during pregnancy.

Six villagers killed by tigers

NEW DELHI (AP) — Wildlife officials are trying to trap tigers that have mauled at least six villagers to death in the past month in north eastern Madhya Pradesh state, the United News of India (UNI) reported. Most of the killings have occurred in the Govindgarh Forest near the town of Rewa, which is 400 kilometres north east of the state capital at Bhopal. The latest victims, a man of 50 and a youth of 12, were killed last Wednesday in separate incidents, the news agency said. Wildlife experts, led by National Park officials, have set traps, but the man-eaters have remained elusive, it said. Until the tigers are caught, villagers have been urged to move in groups through the forests, UNI added. Tigers in the forest generally leave people alone. Wildlife experts speculate that tigers injured by poachers' bullets may turn on humans.

China's population hits 1.06 billion

PEKING (R) — China has said its population growth rate accelerated in 1986 because of a relaxation in the country's strict birth control policy. The New China News Agency (NCNA) said the country's population swelled to 1.06 billion last year, representing a growth rate of 14.08 per thousand. The 1985 growth rate was 11.23 per thousand. The state's official goal is to keep average annual increases below 12.5 per thousand until 1990. Until last year China's population growth rates had shown a downward trend this decade, with most couples strongly urged by the government to have only one child. An official of the State Statistical Bureau was quoted by the news agency as saying the higher growth rate is mainly due to "relaxed control over family planning in some areas."

Couple finds romance on obituary page

STRASBURG, Virginia (R) — Finding one's true love in newspaper personal ads isn't all that unusual, but Jeanne Eckerson and Charles Jackson discovered romance on the obituary page. Ms. Eckerson, 29, writes obituaries for the Northern Virginia daily, while Jackson, 30, works for a local funeral home. Every day since last June, they've spoken on the phone when Jackson called in funeral notices. Eventually, they started seeing each other socially. With the help of several newspaper employees, Jackson placed an advertisement, without Ms. Eckerson's knowledge, on the obituary page. The ad read: "Jeanne. We met through this page. We'll end up on this page. Will you spend the rest of your life with me? Chuck." The pre-Valentine's Day message was inside a heart surrounded by tiny hearts. Ms. Eckerson said she didn't read the paper the following morning. Jackson showed it to her that night. She said yes. The unusual proposal will make the engagement more special, Ms. Eckerson said. "It makes it stand out more," she said. "I mean, everybody gets engaged, but who gets engaged on the obit page?"

Divers recover treasure trove

SYDNEY (R) — Australian divers have recovered hundreds of precious artefacts from a British fleet's flagship that sank in the Pacific nearly two centuries ago, the government has said. An official statement said an 11-member expedition found an "archaeological treasure trove" of more than 600 artefacts from HMS Sirius, including a sextant, bonnets, whistles, cannonballs, parts of the hull and personal effects of the crew. The remains of the ship, which went down after hitting a reef at Norfolk Island on March 19, 1790, would be displayed throughout Australia during the country's bicentennial celebrations next year, the statement said.

2 convicted of selling fake Dali works

NEW YORK (AP) — A couple has been convicted of passing off \$10 posters as signed lithographs by artist Salvador Dali. A state supreme court jury found Martin Fleishman, 51, and his wife, Carol Conventine, 34, guilty of securities fraud, scheme to defraud, and issuing a false certificate of authenticity after a three-week trial. The two were accused of selling fake lithographs by telephone for up to \$3,000 apiece to investors around the country for a total of 750,000 from July 1982 to April 1985. The posters, some of which were not even reproductions of Dali works, were shipped in frames to discourage close inspection by the purchaser, and the signatures were forgeries, Assistant Attorney General Rebecca Mullane said. During trial, Michael Stout, Dali's lawyer in New York, testified that the Spanish surrealist artist had not signed any limited edition lithographs since 1979. Fleishman and Ms. Conventine face up to four years in prison and fines of \$5,000 or double the profit from their crime. Sentencing was set for April 3. They were charged with securities fraud because the posters were touted as investments, Ms. Mullane said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARAT
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q1.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ72 ♠AK6 ♣KJ3 49
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT 3 ♠
? What action do you take?
- Q2.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8 ♠1032 ♠A963 ♠AQJ52
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q3.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A10763 ♠A852 ♠6 ♠1092
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q4.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ843 ♠765 ♠A8 ♠AQ6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q5.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ5 ♠KQ7 ♠AQJ6 ♠AQ8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 4 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q6.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ83 ♠95 ♠K102 ♠8764
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?